MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 AUGUST 1981

Libya

Tripoli radio reported a military spokesman as saying two Libyan aircraft on a routine reconnaissance flight were intercepted and fired on by eight U.S. Air Force aircraft in Libyan skies and over Libyan territorial waters.

Earlier, Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland radio carried a statement by the Popular Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau saying that U.S. 6th Fleet maneuvers, which began on 17 August, are taking place in waters that include part of Libya's Gulf of Sidra. The statement asserted that Libya considers this a violation of national sovereignty and that it reserves the right to take all measures necessary to safeguard Libyan airspace and territorial waters. JANA, citing NEWSWEEK, said that the maneuvers were to coincide with Egyptian military exercises along the Libyan-Egyptian border. JANA also cited NEWSWEEK as describing the maneuvers as the Reagan administration's first direct challenge to the Libyan revolution after months of debating how to assassinate Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhahafi.

Iran

Hijacked Guneboat--Paris radio reported that the hijacked Iranian gunboat arrived in Marseilles and was then towed to Toulon, where it anchored early on 19 August. Although the radio noted that the hijackers and crew surrendered and left the vessel after negotiating with the French authorities, who refused to refuel the boat, AFP later reported that five commandos remained on board. AFP also cited a spokesman for Azadegan, the commandos' organization, as identifying the leader of the hijackers as former Adm Kamal Wahibollahi. France has proposed granting political asylum to the hijackers, Paris radio said, and will repatriate those sailors who wish to return to Iran. In remarks broadcast by the radio, an Azadegan spokesman asserted that the hijackers had wanted to return the boat to France--a claim the radio described as a lie. The Azadegan spokesman also said the hijacking presaged future actions that will be "even more efficacious." In a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Iran, former Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar called on all exiles from the Iranian Armed Forces, gendarmerie and Police to join forces with the secretariat of the Azadegan leader, Gen Bahram Aryana.

Tehran radio broadcast an interview with Foreign Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi in which he said that France would be legalizing piracy and terrorism if it granted asylum to the hijackers. If France does not hand them over to Iran, he warned, it would be giving the go-ahead for attacks on its own shipping lanes. Musavi also reiterated Iran's claim that the CIA had a hand in the hijacking.

Arrests, Assassinations--According to Tehran radio, revolution guards arrested 33 leftists in Ilam, Qazvin and Kazerun. The radio also reported that terrorists assassinated two doctors in the Kurdish city of Mahabad.

Khomeyni on Exiles, Bani-Sadr Plan--In a speech by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni dismissed as "drivel" the possibility that exiles in Paris might stage a comeback and seize power in Iran. However, he warned his audience that while the exiles themselves count for nothing, the United States intends to use them against the Islamic Republic.

Iran-Iraq War

Tehran radio reported that Iraqi long-range artillery shelled Ahvaz, Shadegan and Dezful, killing a number of civilians. According to an Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA, Iraqi forward units attacked Iranian forces in the Dezful region, forcing them to retreat and killing 143.

Reaction to Planes for Israel

Beirut radio reported Lebanese Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah as telling the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon of his resentment and regret over the U.S. decision to resume delivery of F-15 aircraft to Israel.

Cairo radio cited an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official source as saying that the important thing is that Israel honor its pledge to the United States not to use the planes to commit aggression.

A statement made by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, reported by Tunis radio, said Israel's declaration that it made no promises to the United States in return for resuming delivery of the aircraft means that all hopes arising from the suspension have dissipated and that the United States will be to a large extent responsible if the Lebanese cease-fire is violated.

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, citing Arabic newspapers, reported that a PLO spokesman in Beirut described the delivery as promoting Israeli aggression and said it signifies U.S. Government hostility toward the Palestinian people.

A Damascus radio commentary called the decision encouragement for Israel to undermine the cease-fire in Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia

AFP reported that Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, speaking in Geneva at the OPEC meeting preparatory session, said Saudi Arabia would not raise its oil price from $32 to $36 per barrel. He added that an increase to $34 per barrel might be possible, but only under certain conditions.

Lebanese Affairs

Al-Wazzan Press Conference, Meetings--Beirut radio broadcast a recording of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's press conference in Kuwait in which he reiterated Lebanon's acceptance of the Libyan offer of a missile air defense system provided the weapons are placed in Lebanese hands. He added that installation of the system should be free of charge since Lebanon cannot afford the expense.

Meetings between Al-Wazzan and Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah and Amir Shaykh Jabir Al-Ahmad as-Sabah were reported by Beirut radio. According to KUNA, on 19 August Al-Wazzan departed Kuwait for Beirut.

Security Situation--INA repoted that Lebanese-Palestinian batteries in southern Lebanon opened fire on several Israeli gunboats that approached the coast near Sidon.

PDRY, Libya, Ethiopia Summit

According to reports by JANA and Aden radio, the tripartite summit of the leaders of the PDRY, Libya and Ethipia began in Aden on 17 August and continued yesterday. JANA repoted that the three leaders discussed political and economic cooperation.

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KLIBI PROTESTS U.S. SUPPLY OF AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL

LD182123 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Following the U.S. decision to resume the supply of F-15 and F-16 aircraft to Israel, the Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, said: The decision to lift the ban on the supply of American military aircraft to Israel cannot but arouse the concern of all peace-loving countries. By officially declaring that it has made no promises to the United States in return for the lifting of the ban, Israel wishes to affirm that it reserves for itself the right to launch new offensives on the Arab countries and to decide on the character of such offenses.

Thus, all the hopes that rose as a result of the ban imposed following the aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installation on 7 June and later confirmed following the bombing of Beirut on 19 July, have suddenly dissipated.

International public opinion in general, and Arab public opinion in particular, have the right to consider the ban as no more than a temporary maneuver aimed at alleviating the shock to the world caused by the Israeli aggressions, and avoiding any strong and firm resolution the United Nations may have taken to deter Israel. It is feared today that the Zionist entity might s the lifting of the ban as an encouragement to resume aggressions--a matter whic ill undermine the cease-fire in Lebanon.

Drawing attention to the consequences of the U.S. administration's decision, the Arab League wishes to declare that the cease-fire in Lebanon is now threatened more than at any other time, and if the cease-fire is violated and the whole area becomes exposed to explosion, the U.S. Government will be held responsible for this to a great extent.

PLO SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON U.S. PLANES TO ISRAEL

NC181546 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1445 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] The Reagan administration decided yesterday to immediately resume delivery of F-16 and F-15 warplanes to Israel. Israeli radio reported this afternoon that the warplanes should arrive in Israel within 2 or 3 days.

A PLO spokesman in Beirut, Mahmud al-Labadi, was quoted in today's Arabic newspapers as saying that the American decision to send the warplanes to Israel can be seen as an encouragement of Israeli aggression. Al-Labadi added that this development would particularly threaten the cease-fire in Lebanon. He concluded: This decision was expected and no one had taken the American suspension seriously to begin with. We were aware that Reagan would sub t to pressure from the Zionist lobby in a matter of days. Al-Labadi concluded: This decision means that the American administration is hostile to the Palestinian people and that it insists on supplying Israel with weapons of destruction which they will use to kill both the Palestinians and Lebanese civilians, as they did in south Lebanon and Beirut.

VOP CRITICIZES REACTION ON U.S. PLANES TO ISRAEL

JN182150 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1804 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] The U.S. administration's decision yesterday to resume deliveries of F-16 aircraft to Israel did not surprise the Arab masses; nor do we think it surprised Washington's friends in the region. The Arab masses in general and the Palestinian and Lebanese masses in particular have never separated Israel from the United States because they know out of conviction and long experience costing them hundreds and thousands of martyrs and wounded in southern Lebanon, Beirut and Baghdad that Israel, despite terrorist Begin's pretense that he is the decisionmaker, is only an obedient tool at the disposal of U.S. imperialism.

It is a tool for extortion, pressure and domination of a region and regimes that happen to exist in this most important location for American and imperialist interests.

The Arab masses also know that the U.S. administration's decision to suspend the delivery of four F-16 aircraft after the raid against the Iraqi nuclear reactor and to suspend the delivery of another 10 aircraft after the raid against Beirut, constituted only another emergency anesthetization of friends who were shocked by Begin's extreme aggression and terrorism, which threatened even those who were content to remain safe in their nation's fateful struggle against the Zionist enemy.

By comparing the U.S. decision on the resumption of F-16 aircraft deliveries to Israel, as announced by Alexander Haig yesterday, with Menahem Begin's statement after the Zionist cabinet meeting the day before yesterday, one can note the following:

1. Haig says that the U.S. administration has intensively studied the purposes of the Israeli raids and discussed the subject with Begin and the Israeli ambassador in Washington. Thereafter, he says, it decided to resume delivery of the aircraft. Thus, Haig apologizes to Israel now that the U.S. administration has at last been convinced of the purposes of the Israeli raids against Baghdad and Beirut. This means that it sees these purposes as defensive and not offensive, just as was stated by Tel Aviv. This seems to be the meaning of Begin's statement the day before yesterday that President Reagan had made a mistake and is now remedying it.

2. Israeli sources have stressed that Begin's government has not made any promises about not using the aircraft for what is described as defensive purposes. Thus, the play of Reagan's adminstration on suspending the F-16 aircraft deliveries to Israel comes to an end with the U.S. conviction that the strikes against Beirut and Baghdad were dictated by defensive aims and with the U.S. conviction that Washington is always mistaken with regard to the Israeli prime minister. Therefore, there are no new restrictions on the use of F-16 aircraft.

The Arab response has been strange and unacceptable, because the regimes which beat the drum adn blow the trumpet following any gesture made or word spoken by a U.S. official about the Arab issue, imagining this a change in the U.S. administration's understanding of the Arab stand, remain deadly silent when Washington takes steps threatening the Arab nation's destiny and the Arab region's security, as is the case with the U.S. administration's decision on the F-16 aircraft.

This Arab stand cannot be the fruit of unawareness or inability to perceive the imminent dangers. In fact, the Arab region has during the past few years become used to surrendering to the U.S. canes, as if this were their destiny. Furthermore, whenever these canes are raised by Begin or others, the clever politicians in the Arab world hasten to discuss ways of curbing the masses' indignation and the Arab fighting will, on the pretence that the Zionist and imperialist enemy will not have an excuse for further attacks and plots.

Once Israel gets ready to commit aggression with a U.S. green light, shouts are raised about closing the fronts and withdrawing weapons and fighters, to be replaced by calls for surrender to Washington's diplomacy and its envoy in the region. This is the ethical and political maxim in the era of Arab deterioration. However, this maxim will not prevail. The daily bloodshed and sacrifices offered by the heroic fighters are only the torch that will lead this nation on the marathon path toward the arenas of glory, dignity and pride.

YAMANI: SAUDI ARABIA WILL NOT RAISE OIL PRICES

NC181745 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Geneva, 18 Aug (AFP)--Saudi Arabia will definitely not raise its oil price to 36 dollars a barrel from the current rate of 32 dollars, Oil Minister Shaykh Zaki Yamani said here today.

Speaking after today's preparatory session for the special Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) meeting tomorrow, Shaykh Yamani said that to raise the price to 34 dollars would already be difficult.

An increase to 34 dollars would only be possible on three conditions, he said: That OPEC ministers agree on price unity, on premiums (based on quality and transport distances) and on a price freeze for a long period.

Commenting on Venezuela's decision to set its price at 36 dollars, Shaykh Yamani said that if Caracas maintains this stand, "it means we will not have reunification" of prices."

'PROGRESS' SEEN IN OIL PRICE UNIFICATION ATTEMPT

LD181635 Kuwait KUNA in English 1508 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Geneva, 18 Aug (KUNA)--Oil ministers broke up a three-hour informal session here Tuesday, with Libya saying "progress" has been made on agreement to reunify prices.

'Abd as-Salam Zaq'ar told reporters there was now "a great possibility" of tomorrow's consultative meeting being turned into a price-setting extraordinary session.

Zaq'ar said the ministers meeting today--at least 10--were still working on a Saudi-led price agreement on 34-37 dollars, adding that "everybody is flexible."

His statement was seen as further support for a Saudi attempt to reunify OPEC prices and force down the higher-priced North African levels.

Venezuela's energy minister, Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, said after the first session that the ministers would meet again tonight.

"We are talking on price unification and will meet again tonight," he said.

Algerian Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi told reporters that so far the Saudis had given no indications of what price they were prepared to go up [words indistinct] present level of 32 dollars a barrel, the lowest in OPEC.

Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said yesterday he was hopeful of an agreement on a benchmark price of "less than 34 dollars", but Venezuela said it was insisting on 36 dollars.

BAHRAIN

NEWS AGENCY CITES PAPERS ON U.S. PLANES TO ISRAEL

JN190840 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Manama, 19 Aug (GNA)--Today's newspapers express surprise at the U.S. decision to raise the embargo on the delivery of modern fighter aircraft to the Zionist entity.

The Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that there is one fact that should suffice to convince the United States to completely halt its military aid to the Zionist enemy if it has any sense of fairness at all. This fact is that Israeli aircraft over the years have been bombing Arab cities, whereas it has never been the case that Arab aircraft have ever bombed targets within the Zionist entity. If the United States had any desire to change its blatantly biased policy, or even to mitigate it, it could have found justification enough in the enemy's behavior over the past 30 years to do so.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ concludes by saying: Anyone who had thought that relations between the United States and the Zionist entity could be affected by diplomatic and information efforts has a right to despair after what has happened. Official contacts and attempts at explanation and exposition fall on deaf ears in Washington.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in the UAE, describes the U.S. decision to resume delivery of sophisticated U.S. aircraft to Israel as the end of another chapter in the U.S. maneuver against the Arabs. The paper points out that the U.S. embargo decision had specific tactical purposes, which were mainly aimed at absorbing the outrage felt throughout the world following Israel's raid against the Iraqi nuclear reactor using the same type of aircraft. The embargo also had the purpose of absorbing the results of the barbaric air raids against Beirut, carried out by the same type of aircraft. The United States would have exploited these circumstances to peddle a settlement aimed at liquidating the Palestinian revolution.

AL-ITTIHAD adds: In a nutshell, the decision to lift the embargo will serve to unleash Israel's aggressive activities once again, since Israel is quick to respond to such encouragement. On the other hand, the decision may be considered to have a positive effect if taken from the analytic point of view since any deceptive tactical move has a negative effect on friends and can serve to unify their ranks in the face of enemies.

The newspaper AL-WIHDAH asserts that the U.S. decision to resume delivery of the aircraft amounts to a decision of war, and not mere encouragement of it, because the United States is well aware of the uses of these aircraft. The paper adds that the delivery of these aircraft to the enemy is a signal for war, not only against Lebanon and the Palestinians, but against the entire Arab nation. The raid against the Iraqi nuclear reactor is the best indication of this.

KUWAIT

RADIO REPORTS U.S. DOWNING OF LIBYAN FIGHTERS

LD191038 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Washington: The U.S. Defense Department announced that two U.S. F-14 aircraft downed two Libyan SU-22 fighter aircraft early this morning over the Mediterranean. The department said that the two Libyan aircraft were downed after they opened fire on the U.S. planes in international air space over the Mediterranean Sea. The department mentioned that the U.S. Government has protested the incident.

The United States had earlier announced that the U.S. 6th Fleet is carrying out maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Sidra off the Libyan coast, but they described it as routine. U.S. Defense Department spokesman Henry Cato said that the maneuvers started at midnight the day before yesterday. The aircraft carriers Nimitz and Forrestal and other units are participating. The exercises, which will last for 48 hours, include the firing of surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles.

PAPER DENOUNCES IRAN'S INTERCEPTION OF FREIGHTER

GF181806 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Aug 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Chaotic Iran and Irresponsible Practices"]

[Text] The political turbulance Iran is undergoing has brought it to a state of endless chaos and random encroachments against everything. The lack of deterrent virtues sometimes compels it to operate outside its borders and not confine itself to the area of war with Iraq, carrying the chaos with which the Iranian regime is fumbling outside its borders.

The interception of the Danish freighter carrying cargo to countries of the region by Iranian ships, besides being an infringement upon the freedom of passage in international waters, is an irresponsible action directly aimed at these countries. It could result in an extremely serious situation.

This is not the first time Iran has ventured into such practices. It detained the research ship "Western Sea" for 3 weeks in April. The ship was carrying out petroleum research in and a seismological survey of Kuwait's territorial waters.

These actions will not succeed in distracting the Iranian people from the infringements and aberrations taking place in their country--actions that violate international norms and contradict the most elementary rules of conduct, which are customary among countries stemming from the UN General Assembly. This immoral action, no doubt, is rejected by all and only adds more pages of denounciation by the world public opinion to Iran's already full record of encroachments.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER AL-WAZZAN CONTINUES VISIT

Crown Prince Views Talks

LD181635 Kuwait KUNA in English 1450 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Aug (KUNA)--Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister and acting Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir stated Tuesday that talks between H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah and Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiz al-Wazzan covered the situation in Lebanon and a Lebanese request for an extraordinary Arab summit.

During the deliberations which were held in an atmosphere of fraternity and frankness we exchanged with the Lebanese premier on means of ridding the sister-state of its crisis and of preserving its independence and territorial integrity, he said.

In reply to a question by JUNA, Shaykh Sabah said that a date for the summit which Lebanon asked for and a possible earlier date for the regular Arab summit are under consideration.

Al-Wazzan, Amir Statements

NC181731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] [Lebanese] Prime Minister Shafiz al-Wazzan today held talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The talks were described as very positive. Prime Minister al-Wazzan also held talks with Kuwaiti heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, who said:

[Begin recording] It pleases me to welcome today His Excellency Brother Shafiq al-Wazzan, prime minister of the fraternal Lebanese republic, on his visit to his second homeland, Kuwait. I would like to say that we in Kuwait have followed and are still following and feeling the difficult, painful circumstances fraternal Lebanon has experienced and is experiencing. In our belief that Lebanon must be rescued from the destruction and devastation that have afflicted it and in our belief that Lebanon, territory and people, must be preserved, we have worked and are working with our brothers to support the legitimate Lebanese authority and to create a good atmosphere for national accord. We hope that everybody will respond to this sincere appeal and work in unison to ward off the recurring Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon. We also hope that everybody will work for the restoration of stability and security to dear Lebanon. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also made a statement, in which he said:

[Begin recording] We have come to a fraternal country which we have constantly known to harbor love, friendship, fraternity and sincere sentiments toward Lebanon. In view of the fact that we are now experiencing a regrettable bloody tragedy in Lebanon, we have come to meet with our Arab brothers to consult with them on everything that can contribute to our salvation, because the salvation of Lebanon means the salvation of a fraternal country. When this country suffers tragedy of harm, its tragedy and harm will inevitably affect all the Arabs. This is a matter that [words indistinct]. Undoubtedly, we are all aware of the seriousness of the phase through which we are passing and of the great responsibilities which we must shoulder and which we must confront courageously, very responsibly and with complete vigilance, in order to avert possible further dangers and harm. The Israeli enemy no longer stops at any limit. He is constantly bullying and committing aggression and is no longer discriminating between a confrontation state and a supporting state. All of us are now facing aggression. Therefore, we must look into our situation and prepare ourselves with everything that can benefit us and everything that fortifies our [Arab] nation in all countries. [end recording]

Al-Wazzan Press Conference

NC181926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Press Conference held by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in Kuwait on 18 August --recorded]

[Text] [Question] Is the basic vehicle for resolving the Lebanese crisis. [as heard] Have the Lebanese factions reached an agreement to achieve national accord?

[Answer] You have hit the nail on the head by your statement, because this is the fact and this is what everybody is convinced of. We and all those who are making efforts are proceeding from thisbasis, seeking to achieve this accord, because without this accord there can be no stability in Lebanon and no return to normal life. Lebanon yearns to return to a normal life, not only for its own sake but also for the sake of the role which it has always played within the Arab group and the international community. Lebanon is accustomed to being in the vanguard and it wants to regain this role as soon as possible.

[Question by KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, Philip Habib's mission is now suspended. Was Philip Habib's mission for the sake of the missiles crisis or did it transcend this crisis to include the Middle East crisis as a whole in his talks?

[Answer] The statement that Habib's mission has been suspended or has not been suspended can only be judged by a full definition of this mission. I have not been aware at any stage that Philip Habib's mission included the Middle East crisis.

What we in Lebanon know about his mission is that Habib came to contribute to reducing the temperature which resulted from the Israeli threats to hit the missiles, as well as to avert a possible war, especially after the fleets had entered the Mediterranean. At that stage, Philip Habib insisted before us on saying that his mission was confined to the missiles crisis. At a later stage, a new crisis emerged in connection with the Israeli raids on southern Lebanon and the capital and with the fire which began to rage in the south on both sides, particularly in the frontline villages, and the Palestinian retaliation against the Israeli villages.

These events were tantamount to a real war. We in Lebanon felt the impact of this war in the effects it had on all the Lebanese arena. These effects exceeded what we had been accustomed to and put us face to face with a major calamity which started with the destruction of the bridges, which led to the isolation of the southern area from the rest of the homeland, with the martyrdom of many victims and with numerous casualties. We point out that one day--in about 2 to 3 hours--we counted over 300 victims and 800 wounded in Beirut and the south. When I say in Beirut, I mean precisely the area of Al-Fakhani, where whole buildings were destroyed and children, women and old people were martyred. I say effects of war because the raids also hit oil installations and certain important public utilities, leaving the Lebanese without oil and oil byproducts such as fuel and mazot, which affected the generation of elctric power, the factories, the hospitals and the bakeries and almost brought economic life, and consequently day-to-day life, of the Lebanese to a standstill. Such a crisis is experienced by peoples only in a state of war similar to the one we experienced.

I would like to recall once again that Lebanon, which has experienced these circumstances, was very interested in the cease-fire process which Habib, at a later stage, came to participate in resolving. We in Lebanon were eager to achieve results, even though we were not participating in his efforts, because we believe that Lebanon is bound by a truce agreement with Israel and because the Lebanese military forces did not take any action that necessitated Lebanon to be a party to any talks with Israel.

However, this does not mean that Lebanon was not interested in the results. On the contrary, we were following with interest everything that would lead to a cease-fire. Since this has actually been achieved, we are now doing all that is in our power to perpetuate the cease-fire. Lebanon cannot tolerate a new cease-fire setback of a recurrence of the negative results and the regrettable effects which resulted from the recent Israeli raids and aggression, because Lebanon has not yet recovered from the effects of the aggression and therefore it cannot tolerate a new aggression or new raids or a cease-fire setback.

Philip Habib stopped at this point. As to what task his superiors have in store for him and what contacts are awaiting us, thus far we do not know.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] This matter is no longer a secret. For a long time now, and at more than one conference at the highest level, Lebanon has called for a unified Arab strategy. By a unified Arab strategy, we mean that Lebanon takes a fateful view of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We, as Arabs, must fact this destiny united, act in unison and mobilize all our capabilities together in one line. We must either decide one way or another that war is a must and fighting is a must at whatever level, or that the truce should apply to all. It is not permissible that the Lebanese arena alone should be the arena of conflict and its people alone pay the price, while the rest look on, express regret or contribute in such a manner that is not commensurate with the Lebanese sacrifices. The state Lebanon has reached as a result of the conflict in its arena and as a result of it alone being the arena of the conflict almost completely finished and destroyed Lebanon.

We are aware of the great importance of the pan-Arab role Lebanon and Lebanon's presence plays in the Arab arena. I have warned against the destruction of Lebanon, because that would be a prelude to the destruction of another, and consequently a successive chain of [countries] in the Arab world, and could mark the beginning of the fulfillment of Israel's dream [of taking the land] from the Euphrates to the Nile.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] As a people who have a cause and as a people who are suffering, what concerns us most in the present phase is to end this suffering. At this stage, we are grateful for the Arab role and for what it has so far offered Lebanon on every level, including the role of the Arab Deterrent Forces, as well as the role of the Syrian forces operating within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Forces. As for the second part of the question, I would like to emphasize that Lebanon takes a special view of its relations with fraternal Syria, dictated not only by the national and historical ties but also by the ties of neighborhood. By the virtue of geography, Lebanon is linked with Syria on two sides--the north and the east. As for the south, there is the Israeli enemy and in the west there is the sea, which harbors all enemies. We have only two borders with fraternal Syria. Therefore, we view any stability in Syria as a source of stability in Lebanon. We are aware that any security disturbances in Lebanon could lead to security disturbances in Syria. We always seek coordination between Lebanon and Syria, because Syria's security is part of Lebanon's security and Lebanon's security is part of Syria's security. I would not be disclosing a secret to you if I say that, in its working paper which it submitted to the Arab followup committee, Lebanon clearly pointed to the need for the regulation of the relations with fraternal Syria. Such a regulation necessitates the drawing up of provisions and the implementation of these provisions so that we in Lebanon would be reassured against any security disturbances and Syria would be reassured that any part of the Lebanese territory would not be used as a base of conspiracy against fraternal Syria.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the question of the missile network in Lebanon. Is this question directly related [words indistinct] or the Arab area?

[Answer] The truth is that when advocating a unified Arab strategy, Lebanon is doing so on the basis of its firm belief that it is a part of this Arab world and that this world must make a useful move at this fateful stage, particularly after the recent Israeli aggressions. After the attack on the nuclear reactor in Iraq, the Lebanese have firmly established in their minds that Israel has abandoned any discrimination between a confrontation state and a supporting state. The justification Israel provided for its attacks on Lebanon was the presence of the fedayeen and their activities. Its attack on Iraq has no acceptable or unacceptable justification. In view of the savage impact of the raids and their effects, Lebanon has decided to appeal to its Arab brothers to be more enthusiastic in their unionist action to confront the Israeli danger through the formulation of a unified Arab strategy. In application of the proverb that says that a person has to put the wheel in motion first and then involve his brother, Lebanon willed to start the motion itself by equipping its army and preparing itself.

Following the savage Israeli raids on Lebanon, I used the "patriotic shame" expression. We felt patriotic shame whenever the Israeli planes flew in our skies while we were unable to confront them with antiaircraft guns, aircraft or missiles. When advocating a unified Arab strategy, it was necessary that we should start initiatives confirming that we are really determined to advocate and apply this strategy. We thus embarked on several actions, including our initiative to accept any offer from brothers and friends in the East and the West, or from Arab brothers, to provide air defense networks--missile networks. The fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah had some time ago offered to provide Lebanon with a missile network.

Lebanon waited so that its acceptance of such an offer should be based on the existence of a unified Arab strategy. However, following the recent Israeli attacks and after Lebanon *decided to take the initiative along this path*, Lebanon has accepted this offer, on the proviso that the acceptance of this offer and any other offer from any side should be conditional on placing these network or weapons in Lebanese hands and, naturally, that they should be free of charge, because financially Lebanon cannot bear the expenses of such networks, particularly under the present circumstances.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] All that I can say is that these statements are out of place and if I want to be more precise I would say that they are absolutely inaccurate. The Lebanese regime has continually sought to achieve a national accord among the Lebanese. However, matters are complicated in Lebanon and there are unnumerable interferences with the accord among the Lebanese. However, matters are complicated in Lebanon and there are unnumerable interferences with the accord line, particularly by those who want to obstruct it--mainly Israel. I remind you of the stage when we began an approach to this accord. At that time the Israel planes came to attack two Syrian helicopters in Al-Biqa'. It is as if these planes had come to indermine the accord when its signs began looming as a fact on the horizon.

Concerning the building of the Lebanese Army, the authority is serious in this matter. It took several steps when it amended the army's law to become more responsible to the national requirements or rebuilding this army. The authority also issued some legislative regulations pertaining to this law. All the regulations have not yet been completed. The army's numerical strength has been completed and we are seeking to complete its equipment. We also seek to make it competent. The Lebanese working paper, which has been submitted to the followup committee, includes a special chapter on the competence of the Lebanese Army to be able to perform its duties, whether in the south and along the border or the required normal security duties.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I don't want you to use the expression "excuse me" to ask me what you have asked. If I am required to stop at the word "no" only, then I repeat it 10 times before you and you repeat it yourselves. I say no to any faction which destroys Lebanon. However, it is not enough for me to say no, but I must prepare myself to be able to translate it into deeds.

Regarding the discussions with the Kuwaiti brothers, I can definitely say that they were up to the level of what we expect from sincere brothers. We have sensed an inditity of views and of the march necessary at this stage. I can also say that I am satisfied with the results I reached. They will undoubtedly encourage us when I convey them to the Lebanese Cabinet at its session tomorrow to become ammunition in the hands of our ministerial colleagues who will share the task of contacting the other Arab states.

[Question] Is there a tendency to expand the role of the international forces in Lebanon and to inject [add non-Syrian forces to] the Arab Deterrent Forces?

[Answer] I would have preferred it if you had divided the question to obviate any relationship between the role of the Arab Deterrent Forces and that of UN emergency forces. Thier conditions and status differ. I will confine myself to the question on the international forces and say that Lebanon adheres to UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which provides for the restroation of Lebanese sovereignty up to the border strip--up to Lebanon's international border. We demand that the UN emergency forces, and those responsible for them, expand the deployment of these forces southwards to reach this international border, and consequently to liberate the border strip from the sovereignty or domination of Israel's agent Sa'd Haddad.

This is what we as Lebanese are demanding from the UN emergency forces. We stress this every day in our applications to and discussions with the United Nations.

[Moderator] Brothers: Because of the short time, on behalf of the Information Ministry and my journalist colleagues, I profoundly thank Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan for this meeting with the brothers, and we hope that our illustrious guest will say a word, now that he is in Kuwait, in the name of [word indistinct] Kuwait.

[Al-Wazzan] How great that a man should feel that he is not alone in this world and that he has brothers. Alone a person is insignificant, but he is great with his brothers. We are facing destiny and we have come at this level to the Arab countries. We will send messengers to the other Arab countries to acquaint them with the extent of the tragedy and with the dimensions of what Israel is preparing. We fear what Israel is preparing for southern Lebanon. We are here to utter the cry: Beware and Beware! We weep over the days when Palestine was lost. Let us not weep when we see the Lebanese south threatened with encroachment now so as not to weep for Lebanon and its aftermath.

19 Aug Departure

LD190814 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Aug (KUNA)--Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today ended his brief visit to Kuwait and left for Beirut.

IRAQI OFFICIAL DELIVERS MESSAGE TO AMIR 18 AUG

LD181817 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] The amir of Kuwait at 1800 today received member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and acting chief of the presidential office, Hikmat Ibrahim, who conveyed to his highness a message from his brother President Saddam Husayn. The audience was attended by the charge d'affaires of the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait.

The Iraqi envoy arrived early this afternoon at the Kuwait International Airport, where he was welcomed by the secretary of the amiri presidential office, Muhammad Darwish al-Iraqi. Hikmat Ibrahim left Kuwait airport at about 1900 for home.

SAUDI ARABIA

IRAQI OFFICIAL DELIVERS MESSAGE TO KING KHALID

LD181330 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] At 1300 His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in his office at the Royal Palace in At-Ta'if Mr Hikmat Ibrahim al-'Azzawi, member of the Revolution Command Council and acting chief of the Iraqi president's office, who delivered to his majesty a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Present at the meeting were Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and chief of the royal guards; Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, adviser to his majesty the king; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of higher education [as received] and Mr Shafiq ad-Darraji, Iraqi ambassador to the kingdom. Mr Hikmat al-'Azzawi had arrived at Al-Hawiyyah Airport at 1230 today.

LEBANON'S AL-WAZZAN STATEMENT FOLLOWING TALKS

NC171647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister al-Wazzan arrived in At-Ta'if at 1115 aboard a special government plane and was accorded an official reception. Radio reporter and colleague 'Isam 'Abdallah has furnished us with the following dispatch from At-Ta'if:

The first round of preparatory talks between His Majesty King Khalid ibn Al-'Aziz, king of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, and His Excellency Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, held at the Royal Palace in At-Ta'if ended at *1130* Beirut time.

The talks were attended by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard; His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; His Excellency Dr Rashad Fir'awn, special adviser to his majesty the king; and His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dunyan, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Upon emerging from his talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Prime Minister al-Wazzan made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] It pleases me and indeed it is an honor for me to be on a national, rather a pan-Arab, fateful mission on behalf of Lebanon in the present difficult circumstances so as to appeal to our Arab brothers to consider all that is happening in Lebanon after Israel's ugly hand had gone far in perpetrating acts of defilement, murder, displacement and destruction without being hindered or deterred by any conscience or a world force that would put an end to its actions.

Lebanon, which has suffered and is suffering from a bloody tragedy rarely experienced by any other country, can no longer tolerate what it has been enduring in the present circumstances. Israel's trecherous acts of aggression reached such proportions as to make us think that Lebanon is suffering from the effects of real war. The recent Israeli raids resulted in the destruction of bridges, which cut off the southern area from the rest of the Lebanese homeland, and in destruction and in displacement. An aggression was committed against Beirut; against a densely populated area where children, old people and women were killed in their own homes and where people in the hundreds were killed in the streets. In moments, 300 persons were killed and about 800 persons were wounded in one area of Beirut.

I visited the hospitals and witnessed this reality. It was a tragedy in the full sense of the word. The greater tragedy is represented in the consequences the Lebanese people suffered when, as a result of the Israeli raids on the oil installations and certain other vital utilities in Lebanon, they lost the oil and its byproducts, resulting in lack of fuel, mazot, and electricity, affecting the bakeries and hospitals which use these substances.

Lebanon found itself suffering from the effects of a real war. It is as if the tragedy it has been experiencing for the past years is not enough. When one is ill or finds himself in a difficult situation, one cannot but appeal to one's brothers. People who are suffering as the Lebanese people are suffering cannot but approach their brothers. It is for this reason that we have insisted on approaching our Arab brothers to ask them to hold an Arab summit conference where they would consult each other on the situation we are passing through, a situation which affects not only Lebanon but also all of the Arabs. Not just because we are part of this Arab world and the Arabs are committed to any part of this world, but because we, in fact, want to make all the brothers feel that despite our wounds and despite [words indistinct] we are prepared to play our role in this Arab-Israeli conflict. We will play our role and let all the Arab brothers play the required role through a unified Arab strategy that we are calling for so that all of us will confront the battle. None of us has the right to alone decide on war or peace. The responsibility is a collective Arab one. This is what I insist upon.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what is (?the aim) of your visit to the kingdom. What are the most important subjects you have discussed with His Majesty King Khalid?

[Answer] Naturally, when the Lebanese Government decided to approach the fraternal Arab states in order to explain the facts to them and to call upon them to support its request for convening a summit conference, we were taking a special view of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and its officials who proved in all circumstances that they are properly aware of everything the Arabs and the Muslims should do at this particular time. We rely a great deal on our visit to our brothers in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. What I have expected has materialized through our belief in the feeling of fraternity which binds us and our brothers in the kingdom. This was clearly manifested in what I heard from His Majesty King Khalid and the guidance he has given to the officials who were participating in the meeting with us.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what are your comments on His Highness Prince Fahd's plan for the Middle East issue?

[Answer] There are many solutions in the present circumstances. All of these solutions stem from sincerity which prompts those who are sincere to present solutions to achieve stability in the country and the Arab world, especially after so many tragedies. We Lebanese have principles and criteria on the basis of which we define our stand. We are against any settlement [of the Palestinians] in Lebanon. We support the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle. We are with the Palestinian people in their right to return to their homeland; we are for the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state on their land, Palestine. We support the Palestinian people in their demand that Jerusalem be the capital of their state. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: We are with the Palestinian people in their view of the unacceptable stand of the United States which has so far stood with Israel in all its acts of aggression and which so far has not wished to even approve of any condemnation and sanction, which Lebanon insists must be imposed on Israel in order to deter it. When the United Nations considered the Iraqi complaint, it did not wish to impose sanctions against Israel after Israel had hit the Iraqi nuclear reactor and, by doing so, did away with the supporting-state, confrontation-state notion. Iraq is not on the borders with Israel. It is not accused of having fedayeen on its territory firing Katyushas on some villages in the Zionist entity. These were the excuses Israel has been using to justify its air, naval and ground attacks on Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: I have often said in more than one statement, one article and one meeting, that what has afflicted Lebanon after these Israeli plans, which we see are being implemented gradually, is only part of the plan affecting all the Arabs. Beware! Beware! Let no one consider oneself safe from Israeli aggression. It was Palestine's turn in the past; now it is Lebanon's turn, and I do not know whose turn will come next. The enemy's wise men--the wise men of Zion--have made plans and have defined all their aims from the Euphrates to the Nile. Arabs, beware! I am here to say beware, to draw attention and to bring [the Arabs] together. I expect the Arabs in all their countries to [word indistinct].

AL-JAZIRAH URGES REDUCTION IN OIL PRICES

GF181443 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 16 Aug 81 p 3

[Editorial: "The Crisis of Marketing Oil"]

[Excerpts] It is fair to say frankly and courageously that what can be termed as "the crisis of marketing oil" that led to an oil glut with oil-filled giant tankers and vast reservoirs was created by the price increases levied by some OPEC members. This led to very high prices that created a real problem for the international oil companies: enormous financial losses.

The great industrialized countries resorted to alternative forms of energy that enabled them to a large extent to dispense with oil and with the same ratios that OPEC members in the past had insisted on while reducing oil production. These OPEC members had threatened to reduce their production while increasing prices unless the importing countries reduced their consumption.

Saudi Arabia adopted a stand that achieved a delicate balance between the interests of OPEC members and the interests of the industrialized and Third World countries. This clear stand was explained in detail by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani in his important interview with SPA yesterday.

Throughout the past stages of the conflict between OPEC members and the industrialized countries, Saudi Arabia maintained a high level of production that exceeded its real need for oil revenue but ensured the availability of oil in quantities required by world markets.

The logical cycle of OPEC's oil policy in light of the emergence of "the marketing crisis" is to return to an important point, the starting point, review OPEC policy on oil prices and reduce these prices to a level that is in harmony with the current glut on world markets. This will prevent a rise in the great financial losses suffered by many OPEC members as a result of the current marketing crisis in world markets.

The reduction in the average consumption of oil produced by OPEC members from 31 million barrels a day to 24 million barrels and then to 22 million barrels, as the minister of petroleum and mineral wealth explained in his interview, is bound to result in the need to reduce current OPEC prices at least to the level of Saudi prices, which are the lowest world prices for selling oil to consumers on the world markets.

UAE

VISITING MALIAN MINISTER CITED ON ARAB RELATIONS

JN181140 Doha QNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Aug (QNA)--Alioune Blondin Beye, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, currently visiting the UAE, has expressed his country's full support for Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. He affirmed that a just peace in the Middle East can never be achieved unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. The Malian minister stressed the importance of Arab-African cooperation and its promotion in order to preserve the independence of the Arab and African states and protect them from external influence.

In a statement to QNA, the Malian minister said that his talks with UAE officials were aimed at strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the economic field. He added that the talks also dealt with the aid offered by those Arab states that are members of the Islamic committee in solidarity with the littoral African states suffering drought conditions.

Earlier today, a round of talks was held in Abu Dhabi between the UAE delegation, led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'Aymi, and the Malian delegation, led by Alioune Beye. Following the talks an official source stated that they dealt with ways of promoting bilateral cooperation especially with regard to the UAE's contribution to the Malian development plan, exchanging viewpoints on the Middle East problem and on Arab-African cooperation. The Malian foreign minister arrived in Abu Dhabi the day before yesterday on a visit to the UAE within a tour of a number of states in the region.

REPORT OF PAKISTANI OPPOSITION SUPPORT DENIED

JN181315 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Islamabad, 18 Aug (GNA)--Sa'id 'Ali an-Nuways, UAE ambassador to Pakistan, has strongly denied the Pakistani newspaper NAWA-I-WAQT report that the UAE Government is supporting certain elements that are opposed to the Pakistani Government. In a statement issued by the same newspaper today, the ambassador said that relations between the two countries are strong and firm and that they adhere to the Nonaligned Movement policy, which makes noninterference in each others' affairs a basic principle. Previously, the paper had reported that a number of those opposing the Pakistani Government had made repeated visits to the UAE.

PDRY

MATERIAL ON LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, PDRY LEADERS' ACTIONS

JANA on TAlks

LD181034 Tripoli JANA in English 0910 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Aden, 18 Aug (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--The tripartite meeting resumed in Aden yesterday among Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Al-Fatah Revolution; 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister; and President Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in Ethiopia. Mr Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister of the Yemeni Democratic Republic, said that the three leaders have discussed joint cooperation and the political and economic sectors and formed various working committees to draft the cooperation agreements to be signed later.

'Ali Nasir Rally Speech

EA182359 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Speech by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, chairman of the PDRY's Supreme People's Council Presidium and Council of Ministers at 18 August rally in Aden's Martyr Hubayshi Stadium--live]

[Excerpt] Enemies and their henchmen have imagined that they can weaken the Arab and African struggle against imperialism, Zionism, racism and aggression. Their sick minds have led them to the extent of picturing themselves taking on the revolutionary forces one at a time and liquidating them and destroying their progressive achievements. Perhaps they do not realize that the destiny of the Arab and African revolutions is one and inseparable. The course of national liberation in the Arab homeland and Africa is one and indivisible.

Today through the historical meeting in Aden of the three revolutions of Libya, Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen, a new proof of this firm unity and common destiny is provided. We are confident that the toiling masses in Libya, Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen will constitute a weighty unity and a strategic alliance.

Those who have been frightened by our meeting and our alliance ought to realize that the eras of intrigues, aggression and surrender have gone forever. Our people are capable of facing up to any aggression or provocation from anywhere.

I want to stress in the name of the Yemeni masses, in the name of the struggling Yemeni people, known for their militant traditions, that our masses will protect their steadfast revolution just as they cherish the whites of their own eyes. They will discharge their duty in support of our Arab peoples in Palestine, Lebanon, Oman and in the African Continent. They will always be concerned about maintaining stability and security in this region.

Mengistu Rally Address

EA182344 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1327 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Speech by Haile Mariam Mengistu, chairman of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council, at 18 August rally in Aden's Martyr Hubayshi Stadium, Mengistu speaking in Amharic with superimposed Arabic translation--live]

[Excerpts] Ethiopia is a country that has done away with the system of exploitation and oppression. Ethiopia is a revolutionary country that repulsed combined internal acts of sabotage and external aggression. It is now striving for peace, democracy and prosperity, complete eradication of disease and illiteracy and raising its people's standard of living, strengthening relations with international revolutionaries, oppressed peoples and working classes and marching forward with them constitute the country's clear objective. [applause]

However, imperialists and forces of reaction have attempted and are still attempting to create obstacles on the path toward achieving our goals. At present it is clear to everyone that all reactionary forces are starting at the three revolutionary countries--that is, the PDRY, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and revolutionary Ethiopia--and they are doing so by uniting themselves and coordinating their moves. Let us briefly examine the situation we are in at present. The situation is very worrying and alarming and requires great vigilance.

This is a time when imperialism is provoking and making futile attempts. This is very clear to everyone. Imperialism is out to stifle and then destroy the struggle of peace- and freedom-loving peoples. To enable it to achieve this goal, imperialism is establishing numerous and modern military bases everywhere. It is establishing rapid interventionist forces. This situation has put our three countries in a dangerous position.

Among the regions of special interest today for international imperialism, led by the Reagan administration, are the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East and the Mediterranean region. These regions have been given special priority by imperialism. Thus, we should realize that the U.S. military bases established and being established in Somalia, Oman, Egypt, Diego Garcia and other reactionary countries pose a direct threat to the regions' revolutionary countries and peoples.

The plots and conspiracies of international imperialism are obvious. The aim of international imperialism is to prolong its exploitative machinery by destabilizing world peace and provoking conflicts. An earnest of this fact is the recent decision made by the Reagan administration. [sentence as heard]

On the other hand, imperialism is making all efforts to stifle and destroy the independence and freedom of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine. Hand in glove with the racist and fascist Pretoria colonialists, imperialism is massacring and killing millions of our African brothers. Moreover, the racist South African regime is mounting successive raids, destroying property and causing havoc in Angola and the region's other free African countries.

Imperialism is making strong efforts to sabotage the implementation of UN resolutions and recommendations. Regarding the struggle of the people of Palestine, American imperialism, in collaboration and in conspiracy with Egypt and the Zionists, has become a great historic obstacle, and continues with its atrocities. The three countries have rebelled by signing the ugly Camp David accords, thereby denying the people of Palestine the right to self-determination. However, the people of Palestine and the liberators will continue with their struggle. All revolutionaries will stand by the side of the people of Palestine until they regain their rights and establish their government in their territory. [applause]

Imperialism is not limited to this. It is firmly fighting and working against detente and arms reduction. In general, imperialism is conspiring against all peace-loving and progressive forces which are struggling for national freedom, justice and equality in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

Our three countries are imperialism's primary targets in the region. In truth, Democratic Yemen, Libya and Ethiopia are opposed to imperialism and are a hindrance to its policy. To achieve its objectives, imperialism will have to have these countries succumb to it. However, this is a dream. This is the situation and our three revolutionary countries should strengthen their unity like steel and struggle further and march forward. In this regard, the relations and understanding between these three countries are very cordial and are at the highest stages. A testimony to this is our meeting here and the exchange of useful views and ideas. This meeting is also a further confirmation of the revolutionary and peaceful policy we pursue.

Dear comrades: Our three fraternal countries and their peoples should also be vigilant and safeguard their revolutions and freedom. This requires our resolve. We forewarn antipopular and destructive forces of our resolve and continuing struggle. Our peoples are ever victorious.

In conclusion, I take the opportunity to stress the destructive nature of imperialism and call on all forces which stand for peace, prosperity, democracy, detente, equality and justice to raise their united arms against imperialism, the world's antipopular and destructive force and its collaborators, reactionaries, racists, the arrogant, the traitors and the expansionists. International imperialism will be destroyed. Peace, democracy and socialism will flourish. The unity and solidarity of the three revolutionary countries will be strengthened like steel. The unity of the working peoples of the world will flourish. The victory is ours forever. I thank you. [lengthy applause]

YAR

PALESTINIAN MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES 18 AUG

JN181957 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Brother Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Salim az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and the members of the Palestinian military delegation left San'a' tonight following a 2-day visit to the country during which they met with brother leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the brother prime minister.

In a predeparture statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, brother Abu Jihad said that he and the accompanying military delegation were accorded full understanding during their meeting with the brother president. The president reiterated the YAR's support for the Palestinian people and cause under the leadership of the PLO, he added. During this meeting, Brother Abu Jihad said, we were acquainted with the stand of the YAR, which is sacrificing life and blood for the sake of the Palestine cause, as evidenced by the Yemenis fighting in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution. The Palestinian revolution considers this as real support, he said.

Abu Jihad said the meeting with the president reviewed the circumstances of the Palestinian struggle and the possibility of another Zionist attack by the Begin government to weaken the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples on the frontline.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for people's constituent assembly affairs; Lt Col 'Abdallah al-Anisi, deputy chief of staff for financial and administrative affairs; the director of operations at the army command; several armed forces officers; the representative of the Foreign Ministry; and Brother Hikmat Abu Zayd, director of the PLO office in San'a'.

U.S. AIRCRAFT SHOOT DOWN TWO LIBYAN PLANES

NC191047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Paris, 19 Aug (MENA)--Radio Europe No 1 has reported that U.S. aircraft have shot down two Libyan aircraft. Quoting a U.S. Defense Department spokesman, the radio said that the U.S. fighter planes met [qabalat] the Libyan aircraft while they were carrying out routine exercises in the Mediterranean. The radio added that Libya considered that the U.S. fighters had violated Libyan airspace, while the United States believes that this is international airspace.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON F-16's FOR ISRAEL

NC181540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has commented on the U.S. decision to resume the delivery of F-16's to Israel by saying: What is important is that Israel honors its pledges to the United States not to use these planes in any aggression.

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI COMMITTEE TO MEET 27 AUG

NC181637 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] The Joint Egyptian-Israeli committee will hold its first meeting in Alexandria on 27 August. It will discuss arrangements pertaining to the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The Egyptian side of the committee will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The Israeli side will be headed by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The committee's meeting will take place after the discussions President as-Sadat will have with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 25 and 26 August in Alexandria. The talks will center on the autonomy negotiations.

U.S. PAMPHLET WARNS OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON SAUDIS

NC180925 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Aug 81

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM sheds light on a warning contained in a pamphlet distributed among U.S. congressmen and journalists. The pamphlet warns against a possible Israeli strike against Saudi oilfields in order to prove Israel's independence from the United States. The paper says that the pamphlet, which was distributed by Frederick Dasson, a former aide of the late U.S. President John Kennedy who is currently serving as an adviser of the Saudi Embassy in Washington, mentions Israel's attack against the Iraqi nuclear reactor on 7 June. It notes that the distance flown by the Israeli Air Force during that raid is just a bit shorter than the distance the Israeli Air Force would have to fly if it were to attack the Saudi oilfields.

AL-AHRAM also quotes REUTER, which notes that the pamphlet aims at persuading the U.S. Congress to see the importance of supplying Saudi Arabia with the U.S. AWACS aircraft.

HASAN INTERVIEW ON AS-SADAT ROLE IN MIDEAST PEACE

NC181831 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)--Minister of State for presidential affairs, culture and information Mansur Hasan has emphasized that the role President Anwar as-Sadat is performing to achieve peace in the Middle East is a continuation of the role he devoted himself to when he carried out his peace initiative in November, 1977. In an interview conducted by the British Broadcasting Corporation this afternoon, Hasan said that on the external level President as-Sadat is now devoting his attention to the question of achieving a comphrehensive and just peace in the Middle East, and that this means restoring all the Arab rights and guaranteeing the right of all the peoples and states in the area to coexist in security and peac

In the London interview, conducted by a BBC representative, Hasan said that President as-Sadat's role in the Middle East is very important not only for the region but also for its consequences in achieving world peace.

Answering a question on the recent measures announced by Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon on easing tension in the occupied Arab territory, Hasan said that these measures and proposals could increase the confidence of the Palestinians in the occupied territory in the autonomy talks, thus eliminating an obstacle in the path of peace, which is more attainable now.

Concerning Egypt's view on what Israel could offer for the success of the Palestinian autonomy discussions in accordance with the provisions of the Camp David accords, the Egyptian minister of state for presidential affairs, culture and information described the measures announced by Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon as good measures, saying that they call for optimism, particularly since they come directly from him and that he was known for his tough line regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip issue.

In his interview Hasan pointed out that Egypt had asked the leadership in Israel long ago to adopt measures that would win the confidence of the Palestinians so as to achieve peace in the region.

Hasan explained that Egypt hopes and expects the Israeli Government to adopt more such measures and to clarify its stance on the question of autonomy, especially as a means to achieve the right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

The Egyptian minister emphasized that if the Israeli Government could clarify its stand on the principle of the right for self-determination to become an internationally agreed upon principle to which all peoples are entitled, and if it could adopt more measures on easing the military and civilian rule in the West Bank and Gaza, then this would be a great contribution to achieving peace in the Middle East.

Answering a question on the so-called Jordanian dialogue [al-Hiwar al-Urduni], the minister of state for presidential affairs, culture and information expressed his belief that there is no solution called the Jordanian dialogue because the concept of the Jordanian dialogue occurred during a specific period connected with the possibility of establishing some kind of understanding between Israel and Jordan on the question of the West Bank.

Hasan pointed out that the issue is more complicated, he emphasized that what is important is that there should be a Palestinian solution, saying this Palestinian solution could be connected with Jordan in the future. But jumping to the Jordanian solution without taking the Palestinians into consideration will not last long, as has already been proven.

Concerning President Anwar as-Sadat's statement that the cease-fire in Lebanon was the first indirect dealing between Israel and the PLO and a turning point in the completion of the peace process, and whether something new could be added following the recent Saudi proposals on peace in the Middle East, Hasan stressed that the cease-fire in Lebanon, as President Anwar as-Sadat put it, is an important turning point in the Middle East question because it is the first cease-fire between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Hasan added that this cease-fire is an important turning point, especially because PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat himself announced at a press conference that the Palestinians will respect the agreement.

Hasan said this is why President as-Sadat considers that all efforts must be exerted by the United States, Western Europe and the capable Arab states--particularly Saudi Arabia. We must exert efforts to exploit this new step--build new steps on it that would lead to achieving real peace and to setting the Palestinian question. He stressed that this cannot be done unless both the Palestinian and Israeli sides agree to a reciprocal, harmonious and simultaneous recognition of each others rights.

Hasan hoped that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would continue its role to achieve peace in the Middle East--like the important role it carried out in the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon--because Saudi Arabia's continuation in this positive role, which draws us closer to achieving a comprehensive peace, is a positive sign in view of the fact that Egypt did not want to assume or imagine that it alone could assume the burden of and responsibility for the Arab cause.

Hasan stressed that the positive contribution of the largest possible number of Arab states to the generally agreed upon peace strategy, regardless of differences on tactics or some details, would make it more possible to achieve the peace that would satisfy the Arab nation.

Regarding the reality of the Egyptian position on the European initiative, Hasan expressed his belief that there is no such thing as a European initiative so far. He pointed out that a European initiative has been contemplated for a long time, but that this initiative has not yet materialized, although features of this step are looming on the horizon.

Hasan confirmed Europe's role in the peace process, saying that the European group is effectively and positively performing this role in coordination with the United States. This role, he added, requires the European group to find out for itself what difficulties or obstacles obstruct achieving a comprehensive and peaceful solution in the Middle East by understanding the views of the various parties in the region.

'ALI COMMENTS ON SOVIET THREAT IN AFRICA

NC181818 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said today that the military pact between Ethiopia, Libya and Aden provides a grave indication of Soviet moves to surround the area from the direction of Aden, Ethiopia and Libya in Chad, particularly since there are no threats against these states from any surrounding state. But, on the contrary, Libya, which is one of the pact leaders, is the instigator of all the moves hostile to the regimes in Africa.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that Libya is behind the containment operation being carried out by the Soviet Union in the African Continent. He said that the role being played by the surrounding states is aimed at calming down the conflict. Consequently, there is no direct threat that calls for the establishment of such a pact. Furthermore, the question of Ethiopia and Somalia has been frozen.

AL-AKHBAR VIEWS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN MIDEAST

NC180930 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Aug 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Egypt and Nuclear Weapons", AL-AKHBAR writes in today's commentary:

U.S. President Ronald Reagan is very interested in having the Middle East free of nuclear weapons. He is currently meeting in California with members of the National Security Council to discuss this issue and to pave the way for discussi _ it at the UN General Assembly's forthcoming meeting.

The paper says that Egypt's views on nuclear arms are well-known: Egypt does not want the Middle East alone to be free of [nuclear] weapons. Egypt wants the entire world to be free of these weapons which threaten it with extinction, and which have now become the plaything of the mature and the immature. Perhaps one very clear testimony of Egypt's stance is that it undertook to sign the international agreement on nuclear disarmament as well as to comply with all the prerequisites pertaining to this agreement and to support any call that advocates safeguarding the world from the perils of nuclear arms.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that Egypt's stance does not stem from weakness or impotence, for Egypt is the only country in the Middle East capable of producing these weapons and is more than capable of obtaining what is needed to produce these weapons. However, Egypt did not try to do so. Egypt did not go along this path which contradicts the most basic human principles. Therefore, Egypt does not object to making the Middle East a zone free from nuclear weapons. On the contrary, Egypt prefers this alternative on the condition that it includes all the countries in the region and that Egypt can guarantee the region is indeed free from these weapons. Therefore, Egypt asks, on behalf of all the countries in the region, what Israel's stance is in this respect? The paper answers by affirming that Israel's stance is well-known. For a long time now, Israel has possessed more than one nuclear reactor. It has also been reported more than once that Israel possesses the atomic bomb. Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear disarmament treaty and its refusal to allow the international committee to check nuclear weapons followed. All of this has made people believe that Israel possesses an atomic bomb and the capacity to produce it since it did not sign the treaty on banning nuclear arms or abide by its measures.

AL-AKHBAR wonders: Is it logical or acceptable to make the Middle East a zone free from nuclear arms while Israel reputedly possesses an atomic bomb or the capacity to produce it? Or are there international measures that should be implemented so as to guarantee this area is free of these weapons that threaten the world with extinction?

The paper goes on to say: Perhaps what motivated the U.S. President to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone was the fact that this area is rife with disturbances, riots, battles and wars--which make it the most dangerous area in the world. This peril might be escalated through the use of nuclear weapons and by the eruption of a worldwide clash that brings about destruction and annihilation. This is possible, or perhaps it was a fear of Soviet madness which would not hesitate in making the atomic bomb and nuclear arms a plaything for the immature so as to achieve their designs and satisfy their greed. At any rate, nuclear disarmament as such will not pave the way for peace in the Middle East. Such a peace will only be realized by natural methods and by removing the causes and motivations that both threaten peace and place the whole region in a perilous situation, which is escalating day by day. If we can sincerely achieve this, disarmament might possibly be effective.

CAIRO NOTES $138 MILLION IN AID TO PALESTINIANS

NC180940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Aug 81

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM notes that the aid which Egypt has given and is still giving to the Palestinians this year amounts to $138 million, an increase of $38 million over last year. About 10,000 Palestinians are making use of this aid in the fields of education, social security and administrative funds.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 433

JN181635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)--An Iraqi force attacked Iranian enemy positions in the Dezful region and clashed with the enemy in a fierce battle in which 143 enemy troops were killed.

Communique No 433 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command said that during this attack, the Iraqi force also destroyed two tanks and two guns and seized a quantity of serviceable light weapons and equipment. The communique put the known enemy losses during the past 24 hours at 197 killed and 4 tanks, 2 vehicles, 2 guns, 3 observation posts and 2 hardware stockpiles destroyed.

The text of Communique No 433 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces pounded the forces of the ignorant racist Persian regime in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today. The results are as follows.

I. Known enemy losses:

A. A force belonging to one of our forward units attacked enemy positions in the Dezful region and clashed with the enemy in a fierce battle in which all available weapons were used. The enemy was forced to evacuate its positions and retreat after having sustained 143 killed and 2 tanks and 2 guns destroyed. Our forces seized a quantity of serviceable light weapons and equipment.
B. One of our combat patrols clashed with an enemy force in the Shush region and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 26 dead. Our forces also destroyed two observation posts in the same region.
C. Ten killed and 1 vehicle carrying charlatan Khomeyni guards and 1 hardware stockpile destroyed in the Abadan region.
D. Seven killed in the Sumar region.
E. Six killed and one hardware stockpile destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
F. Five killed and one tank destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
G. One tank and one observation post destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
H. One vehicle carrying hardware destroyed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 197 killed and 4 tanks, 2 vehicles, 2 guns, 3 observation posts and 2 hardware stockpiles destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 20 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Four vehicles and two mortars damaged.
C. This morning the Persian enemy shelled the city of Basra with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 August 1981

INCIDENTS REPORTED IN BEIRUT, OTHER AREAS

Sodeco Area Hit

NC182049 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] The day did not pass in peace as it had been hoped. The alien armed men in the outskirts of the western sector disrupted the security situation tonight by aiming their shells at the Al-Yasu'iyah area right up to the markets and deep into the residential areas of Al-Ashrafiyah. Moreover, at 2140 [1940 GMT] tonight two B-7 shells fell on the army positions in Sodeco, but they did not cause any casualties. The alien armed men fired several RPG's at the Sodeco area around 2100 and 2130 and then expanded their area of attacks to include Al-Barjawi. Up to now, the situation remains tense and the sounds of explosions are being heard in various parts of the eastern sector and in the capital's axes.

Further Details

NC181812 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] At 1800 today shells and handgrenades were directed from the Sa'd and Ashmun buildings in the center of the capital toward the contact lines. Some shells fell on Al-Yasu'iyah quarter and Monot Street. Cars with loudspeakers drove through the southern suburb of the capital urging the gunmen to respond to the cease-fire agreement and warning them that any position which opens fire will be violently attacked.

The areas separating the Amal members and the Communists remain paralyzed because of the collective evacuation of these areas following the recent fierce clashes. The Sodeco Road remains closed because of sniper fire, while traffic on the Port Road was disputed a little around noon. The army positions in 'Uyun as-Siman came under fire at noon today following tension along the Al-'aqurah ridges.

ISRAELI GUNBOATS DRAW JOINT FORCES FIRE 18 AUG

JN181312 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Beirut, 18 Aug (INA)--Artillery field guns of the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces in southern Lebanon early Tuesday opened fire on Israeli gunboats attempting to approach the Lebanese coasts.

INA correspondent in south Lebanon said several enemy gunboats tried to approach the offshores of Sidon, some 95 kms south of here, and the joint forces opened intensive artillery fire lasting three hours.

AL-WAZZAN RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM KUWAIT 19 AUG

NC190922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived at Beirut International Airport at 1025 today following visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He was met at the airport by several ministers and high-ranking military and civilian officials. He was saluted by a detachment from the internal security forces. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan returned on the same private government plane.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan immediately left for B'abda Palace to meet with President Ilyas Sarkis and brief him on the outcome of his talks.

AL-AS'AD DISCUSSES PAN-ARAB STRATEGY, OTHER ISSUES

NC181130 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 3-9 Aug 81 pp 20-27

[By Nadim Abu Ghannam]

[Text] The speaker of the Lebanese parliament, Kamil al-As'ad has called on the Lebanese executive authorities to demand a mini-Arab summit conference if a full summit proves impossible or fruitless because of Arab divisions.

Speaker As'ad, in a private interview with MONDAY MORNING last week, said the summit should be held by any number of Arab states which are capable of reaching agreement on a joint strategy to protect south Lebanon from inevitable occupation by Israel.

The Lebanese Government has already requested an Arab summit conference, but Al-As'ad said he feared that the request was merely the government's way to shield itself from mounting criticism of its chronic failure to take action in defense of south Lebanon.

The speaker, escalating his attack on the executive authorities, said that if decisive government action was delayed pending the achievement of Arab unity, it could be too late: Israel may by then have reached the Litani River, which it considered more important than any of the Arab territories occupied so far, since it would give it a measure of independence from external aid and consecrate its presence in this region.

Al-As'ad said Lebanon was ready to go along with any convincing strategy the Arabs might adopt in a full or partial summit conference, even if that strategy provided for continued unilateral action against Israel from south Lebanon by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)--on the condition that the Arabs could demonstrate that such a strategy would not lead to the occupation of the south.

Alternatively, the Arabs could opt for a strategy of political and economic effort to impose implementation of the UN resolutions on south Lebanon. In that event, if the Arabs found that the implementation of the UN resolutions would collide with the agreements on armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, those agreements should be amended or cancelled.

The speaker noted that he was one of the critics of the Lebanese-Palestinian Cairo agreement in parliament in 1969, arguing that the public accord with the Palestinian resistance was the most powerful weapon ever handed to Israel for use against Lebanon.

Another strategy the Arabs may opt for, he added, would be an all-out military confrontation with Israel.

The speaker renewed his attack on the UN interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), describing it as an impotent body which "needs an international force to protect it." UNIFIL, he said, would not be able to stand in Israel's way should the Zionist state decide to take over south Lebanon. He called on the Lebanese authorities to jolt the world community into a realization of its responsibilities in south Lebanon either by threatening to demand the withdrawal of UNIFIL or by sending large Lebanese army contingents to the south independently of UNIFIL on the grounds that the international troops were not doing their job.

Al-As'ad also made the following points:

--The Arab followup committee, which has been meeting at foreign-minister level since last June in an attempt to defuse the Lebanese crisis, will achieve nothing because it is not giving top priority to the root of the Lebanese crisis--the problem of south Lebanon.

--The working paper which the Lebanese executive authorities presented to the committee as the basis of a Lebanese solution placed no emphasis on the southern problem, which is why Al-As'ad's Democratic Socialist Party decided to instruct its representative in the government of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Hydroelectric Resources Minister Anwar Sabbah, to resign.

--The current efforts to firm up the bylaws of the Independent Parliamentary Bloc, the largest alliance in the house and one that is headed by the speaker, are aimed at making it more united and disciplined--partly in preparation for next year's presidential elections.

--An extension of President Ilyas Sarkis' term next year is out of the question. A new president must be elected.

Speaker al-As'ad said that the danger to south Lebanon was posed by Israel's expansionist designs and the Arabs' failure to agree on a strategy to block those designs.

"What we fear is that we may be approaching another stage of Israeli expansion aimed at a takeover of the land of the south and the waters of the Litani River," he said. "That expansion stage would be more important to Israel than all previous stages, because the takeover of the Litani waters would allow Israel to dispense with the resources--arms, funds--which it is now getting from external sources, from the U.S. It would consecrate Israel's presence in this area in a stronger, more independent way.

"It is our hope that the Arab's current state of disarray will not lead to that tragedy, which would dwarf all past tragedies and affect not only Lebanon but the Arab world as a whole, because it would impose a capitulatory settlement on the Arabs and in the end pose a direct danger to every Arab state."

The Arabs, he said, had no plan of any kind to deal with this danger--eigher to maintain the status quo by strengthening Palestinian commando action and making it more effective or to change the status quo by undertaking a pan-Arab military or political-economic confrontation with the Zionist state.

"What they are doing now can only be described as a communal shirking of responsibility," he added. "One hundred and thirty million Arabs, by their divisions and inaction, have been cancelling each other out since 1947 and, in effect, helping the three million united Israelis."

PLO

One thing that was certain was that one Arab party had no chance against the Israelis, Al-As'ad said. "The Palestinian resistance alone is neither able nor expected to defeat the Israelis or abort their plans or succeed in returning the Palestinians to Palestine..."

Rejecting the thesis that Palestinian armed presence is the factor that is endangering the south, Al-As'ad said: "The enemy is Israel. The Palestinians are our partners in the confrontation with the enemy--but as partners, they must not adopt positions unilaterally, especially if those positions could give the enemy the opportunity to realize his ambitions. The danger lies not so much in the presence of armed Palestinians in Lebanon but in the absence of an Arab plan. In the absence of such a plan, Palestinian armed presence may exacerbate the crisis, but that presence is not the crisis; the crisis is the absence of a plan."

The chief of Lebanon's legislative authority said that when he talked about "a plan," he did not mean "agreements."

"I am against agreements between members of the same party. Lebanon is a member of the Arab party, and so are the Palestinians." As such, any plan that may be devised should not involve "agreements." Lebanon must give the Palestinians everything it can possibly give them without an agreement, and the Palestinians must not try to take from Lebanon more than Lebanon can give, regardless of any agreement that may exist between them....

"It has always been my opinion that Lebanon's agreement with the Palestinian resistance, whether it was applied or not, was the most powerful weapon ever given to Israel. The very fact that the agreement was announced implied that Lebanon had renounced the (Israeli-Lebanese) armistice agreement. It would have been possible to have an unwritten, unannounced agreement giving the Palestinians the right to undertake commando action--within the limits of Lebanon's capabilities. We have told the resistance leaders more than once that Lebanon should give them more than the agreement stipulates if it is able to do so, and by the same token, the palestinians should take only 10 percent from Lebanon even if the agreement stipulates 100 percent when the implementation of the agreement can lead to the usurpation of Lebanese land....

"I wasn't the speaker of the house in 1969 (when the Cairo agreement was signed). I was a deputy, and as a deputy, I criticized the agreement, as you can ascertain by checking the house records."

Al-As'ad said that the PLO, which was represented at the United Nations and had approved of the UN resolutions on south Lebanon, should facilitate the implementation of those resolutions. "An Arab-Palestinian or Lebanese-Palestinian plan should be prepared of that plan, it is found that the Palestinians must withdraw from the UNIFIL zone, then they should withdraw....

"What is required is a plan, not another agreement. The agreement is already there. If it is found that all agreements must be skirted for the liberation of South Lebanon, then those agreements must be cancelled. Agreements are not an end in themselves; they are a means to an end. If they are found to be an obstacle blocking the return of Lebanese land [a referent to the border strip occupied by Israel with the help of rebel Lebanese Major Sa'd Haddad), they must be set aside. If Lebanon can given the palestinians more, then it should give them more--on condition that this does not jeopardize its land."

An Arab strategy was required to implement the UN resolutions which call for the reestablishment of Lebanese sovereignty over all parts of the south--resolutions which, if implemented, would protect the south from Israel, Al-As'ad said.

"We are looking for any kind of Arab strategy that would serve that purpose. If the Arabs find that unilateral Palestinian action must continue, then they must prepare a strategy for its continuation that would guard against an Israeli take-over of the south. We would go along with that. We would accept six more years of destruction, on condition that they explain to us first how they intend to do it.

"Another possible strategy the Arabs could adopt is the strategy of military confrontation with regular armies. If they can wage war, let them wage war; perhaps that would pull us out of this continuous crisis.

"And if they find that a war strategy would not serve the purpose, or that they are not equipped for it, they can adopt a political-economic strategy: Political-economic positions relating to the supporters of Israel, to the U.S., to force it to impose our will on Israel, to prevent it from using its veto to block an anti-Israel resolution at the Security Council....

"All these options are open. What is needed is action in one direction or another."

Half-Hearted

Al-As'ad placed most of the blame for Arab inaction of the Lebanese executive authorities, which he said have consistently refused to take action on the Arab and international levels despite repeated demands from parliament and various parties.

The action which the Lebanese executive authorities have taken in the direction of the Arab world and the United Nations has been largely "routine" and half-hearted, with no follow-up and no forceful attempts to bring the Arabs and the international community face to face with their responsibilities toward Lebanon, the speaker charged.

He said the one major action the executive authorities had taken so far was their attendance of the 1979 Arab summit in Tunis, where they demanded a unified Arab strategy on the Arab-Israeli confrontation which is now concentrated in south Lebanon.

That action was taken only after parliament demanded it and it became clear that the fate of the government depended on it, Al-As'ad said, and even then no attempt was made by the executive authorities to follow up the resolutions of the Tunis summit with a view to imposing their implementation.

He added that the working paper which the executive authorities prepared for the Arab follow up committee on the settlement of the crisis devoted one paragraph to the southern problem, stating only that Lebanon hoped that the efforts it was exerting on the Arab and international levels would lead to the strengthening of UNIFIL.

"This indicates that the executive authorities are not only derelict in their duties but ossified, totally paralyzed," Al-As'ad said. "And that is what prompted us to submit the resignation of Minister Sabbah from the government."

The follow up committee, by failing to give the southern problem top priority, would fail to achieve any significant progress toward the settlement of the Lebanese crisis, he said.

"What is happening in Beirut and Lebanon in general is nothing but an extension of the crisis in the south, a byproduct of Israel's expansionist plans. True, this crisis has created various contradictions in Lebanon, and Israel is determined to fuel these contradictions, aborting any attempt to settle them by taking violent action either in the south or in Beirut.

"The committee has taken note of a certain document (a written commitment by the rightist Lebanese Front to sever all ties with Israel)--nothing but paper. It has achieved nothing, because it is not approaching the problem from the right direction, from the south. We are not against any dialogue or security measures that can bring the various parties closer together, but if the committee does not take the south as a springboard for the solution of Lebanon's internal problems, it will find no solution."

Summit

After the July 25-26 meeting of the follow up committee at the B'abda Presidential Palace, Premier al-Wazzan announced that his government had formally requested an Arab summit meeting to consider the southern problem after the "two-week war" between Israel and the PLO which ended with a cease-fire sponsored by the U.S. and the United Nations on July 24.

"We believe that the request is nothing more than an attempt (on the part of the executive authorities) to escape blame," Al-As'ad said. "I say this because there are Arab divisions which are likely to make a full Arab summit impossible or, if the summit is held, make any effective summit resolutions impossible....

"When I met with the Arab follow up committee, I stated that it was not acceptable to wait for Arab solidarity before defining a strategy. That would be an attempt at evasion. Arab unity cannot be achieved overnight, and with the enemy at the door swift action is required.

"I asked the committee for work toward joint action by the Arabs already involved, the Arabs which already represent one party--the Arabs who are members of the follow up committee, who can perhaps be joined by Tunisia, by Libya and the Arab steadfastness front. These Arabs are already in accord, and it is from them that a strategy is required. That is what the Lebanese executive authorities should have demanded, instead of hiding in the shadow of their thumb by requesting a summit conference, on the understanding that if the request is turned down they can tell everyone that they have tried and are therefore no longer to blame.... By adopting the attitude of blaming other countries for their failure to come to its aid and letting it go at that, the Lebanese state is like the sheep who complains to the wolf or the butcher.

"When I met with the committee, I told them the story of the man who threatened everybody that he would 'do what his father did' if he was not given a horse immediately. Everyone begged him to reconsider, but he kept insisting that he would do what his father did. One person finally asked him what it was that his father did, and the man said, 'he went walking.' So they told him to go ahead and walk.

"Lebanon can't go on being inactive and blaming others for its tragedy. It must act to make the others act."

Asked what Lebanon should do if the Arabs refused to give it the "horse" of the mini-summit, Al-As'ad said:

"I don't think any Arab country has any excuse to offer for not attending, but if some refuse, Lebanon must ask each country that refuses to explain its reasons. If the reason turns out to be that other countries are not coming, Lebanon can then say that it does not want a full summit. For instance, if Kuwait says it will not attend because Morocco is not attending, Kuwait can be told that Lebanon is not interested in having every Arab state attend. We don't need all the 130 million Arabs to face the three million Israelis. Forty million Arabs will do. The Arab oil-producing countries alone would be enough."

United Nations

The Lebanese executive authorities, Al-As'ad said, were being as ineffective at the United Nations as they were in the Arab world.

"Lebanon is going to the United Nations with routine positions, contenting itself with routine renewals of UNIFIL's mandate, without any changes in that mandate, without any measures to ensure the fulfillment of the mandate," he said.

Lebanon's ambassador at the United Nations, Ghassan Tuwayni, recently met with Al-As'ad and told reporters after the talks that he had informed the speaker that the latest extension of the UNFIL mandate had been made conditional on certain measures.

"What he meant by that," Al-As'ad told MONDAY MORNING, "was that there was a prior agreement between Lebanon and the UN Secretariat General on a specific program to be implemented during this mandate. We are happy about this, since we have been demanding it since 1978. But this common conception between Mr Tuwayni and (Secretary General Kurt) Waldheim remains nothing but a common conception.

It has no international support to make it applicable. Neither Lebanon nor Waldheim has the power to do anything until the go-ahead is given by those who hold the power of veto in the security council."

UNIFIL, Al-As'ad said, "has become something symbolic. It needs an international force to protect it. Its presence is consecrating the status quo and providing international cover for this plot against the south and Lebanon."

The speaker repeated earlier statements urging the Lebanese authorities to threaten to demand the withdrawal of UNIFIL.

"I proposed this in the past, and I propose it now, as a tool that Lebanon can use to apply pressure on those who sent UNIFIL to save Lebanon and are now watching it doing nothing to save lebanon: to embarrass those who are behind that ineffective resolution, to make them shoulder responsibilities," Al-As'ad said.

And even if it came to an actual withdrawal of UNIFIL, "The situation will not be worse than it is now," he added. "I would like to ask those who are saying that the withdrawal of UNIFIL would lead to an Israeli invasion: Can UNIFIL, this helpless international force, prevent Israel from occupying, from attacking? Definitely not. Israel is preparing international public opinion for the occupation of south Lebanon. If Lebanon were to tell the world that it was no longer willing to be made a fool of by a resolution which had never been applied, that it wanted UNIFIL to pull out because it was providing cover for a situation that was no longer tolerable, I believe that action would do more to block an Israeli occupation than the continued presence of UNIFIL.

"At any rate, this is only one of many actions we have demanded, and so far, not one move has been made by the executive authorities."

Army

Another action that has been demanded of the executive authorities is the dispatch of the Lebanese Army to the south. The government has sent around 1,500 Lebanese troops to serve under the command of UNIFIL.

That, Al-As'ad said, was not what was required. Larger army contingents should be sent, and these should be under Lebanese, not UN command.

"Army presence in the context of UNIFIL means only that the army is part of the international forces," he said. "Instead of a sign saying "Senegalese battalion," there is a sign saying "Lebanese battalion." A few soldiers taking their orders from the UNIFIL commander is not what we meant when we demanded the dispatch of the army to the south.

"The army must be sent to the south, up to the borders with Israel, to underscore the responsibilities of the international community which is now consecrating an unacceptable status quo. If, in the process, the army comes under attack by Israel or by the forces controlling the south, so be it. it is no shame for an army to be attacked in the pursuit of national rights and the implementation of international resolutions."

The official Lebanese position is that no more than 1,500 soldiers can be sent to the south under the terms of the Israeli-Lebanese armistice agreement. Israel refuses to abide by the agreement, but Lebanon's position is that the Lebanese state must abide by it as it mounts an international effort to impose its revival.

"This is nonsense," Al-As'ad said. "The armistice agreement is not being observed by Israel, which is thrusting deep into Lebanese territory. Secondly, Lebanon can send any number of troops to the south for internal security purposes without violating the agreement. Thirdly, Security Council resolutions supersede any bilateral agreement and if those resolutions require more army presence in the south, no armistice agreement should stand in the way.

"Sending large Lebanese forces to the south to implement the Security Council resolutions and face UNIFIL with its responsibilities is the least that we can ask of the executive authorities. We have asked for this, but nothing has been done. We have asked for action to turn UNIFIL into a deterrent force, but they say there is a veto to think of. We have asked for action to overcome this by developing an Arab strategy, but they have done nothing."

They

Asked exactly who "they" were, Al-As'ad said, "I don't want to go into the details, but the state is responsible. On the parliamentary level, of course, we cannot say that the government is not responsible, because in our system, it is only the government that is accountable before the house.

"I say 'government' in the sense of a continuous moral person, not in the sense of specific personalities. There have been two governments in the regime of President Ilyas Sarkis--the government of Premier Salim al-Huss and the government of Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan. Today we have the Al-Wazzan government, but I cannot hold Al-Wazzan responsible because what is happening now is the continuation of a pattern that has been occurring throughout a regime called the regime of President Sarkis. At the same time, we cannot absolve any government because if we do, we will be giving up--since in our system we cannot hold anyone but the government responsible."

Al-As'ad is now in the process of overhauling the largest bloc in parliament--the Independent Parliamentary Bloc. In an on-going series of meetings, attempts are being made to lay down internal bylaws and making them binding on all members of the bloc, which has so far been a loose gathering of MP's with the right to vote as they wish.

"Perhaps the attempt to lay down binding regulations will lead to some withdrawals which will reduce the membership." Al-As'ad said, "But a smaller, more disciplined group that shares common conceptions is always better than a large group which has no guidelines."

But surely, I said, the main purpose of the reorganization is to prepare for the approaching presidential elections, and in such elections numbers are of the essence?

"That is true," Al-As'ad said. "Still lack of discipline may do more harm than good. A large number of deputies who are not bound by any regulations may not agree on one presidential candidate."

What, I asked, does the speaker think of the rumors that the mandate of President Sarkis may be extended when it expires next year?

"There is no such thing as extension," Al-As'ad replied promptly. "There is only the election of a president of the republic. As far as I'm concerned, extension is a subject that is not open for discussion."

RESERVIST DIES FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED IN MINE BLAST

TA181820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Reserve soldier Yehoshu'a Gan of Rishon Leziyyon, who was wounded about a week ago when his vehicle hit a mine in the Jordan Valley, died of his wounds this evening. This is reported by the IDF spokesman. A number of soldiers were wounded by the blast near Moshav Argaman.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTS ON POLICY IN TERRITORIES

TA181234 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 81 p 11

[Yehuda Litani commentary: "They Are Not Giving Up Their Honor"]

[Text] Ever since June 1967 there has been an accepted fairy tale in Israel about the existence of leaders in the territories, unknown and not heard from by the public at large, who are frightened of coming out into the spotlight and exposing themselves lest they be murdered or ostracized by PLO supporters. This leadership would have been prepared to speak in the name of the Palestinians and reach an agreement with Israel, except that it fears for its life. In order to speak with it, it must be brought out into the light and its fears allayed and, while so doing, the existing leadership must be weakened and isolated. Another rumor has it that an improvement in the attitude toward the Arabs of the territories, in their daily lives, will lead to so much gratitude on their part that they will (almost) agree to anything asked of them.

The new minister of defense, Ari'el Sharon, has put these two elements together into one piece and created over the last few days a "new policy" in the territories for the public. Even before he had spoken with even one leader in the territories he created such high expectations in Israel and throughout the world that if he fails in his mission it will be a fall from the heights to the absolute depths.

By his (purely superficial) easing of the image of the Military Government's iron fist, Minister Sharon is in fact admitting what has been written and said over the last few years by many people in Israel, in the territories and abroad: that the Israeli conquest of the territories that began with the boast of being the most liberal conquerer in the world had become unbearable. Unbearable--not only for softhearted doves, long-haired leftists and naive journalists, but also for the hard, courageous general, the man who made and is still, to this day, making war with guile, a man who is not put off by battle or ambushes, whatever they may be, the man whose daring and innovative actions "cleansed" the Gaza Strip of PLO terrorists and the PLO rule over it.

According to what has been written in the papers, "Ministry of Defense sources," attributing the plans to Minister Sharon, reported that the degrading attitude toward the inhabitants of the territories at roadblocks would cease and soldiers would be forbidden to enter schools. It was also reported that "hazing" and collective punishment in the territories would be stopped.

There is no doubt that the very fact of a desire to speak with leaders from the territories and putting the finger on the problem that appears (and quite rightly so) to Ari'el Sharon to be a most important problem, if not the most important problem of all, are positive and represent an appreciable improvement compared with the previous years--the end of 'Ezer Weizman's period as defense minister and the entire period in office of Prime Minister Menahem Begin as defense minister--2 years that were characterized by absolute passiveness by the political echelons in the territories. That was the period known by the name "the iron fist"--mainly on the initiative of the military echelons headed by the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Eytan, and the coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj Gen Dani Mat. It was those two who ran the policy.

The new orders to prevent humiliations, to stop "hazing" and collective punishments, to forbid soldiers from entering schools and so on, are also important for the purpose of creating a better atmosphere. The same applies to the talks with leaders from the territories that Ari'el Sharon is holding currently. All of this is important for an understanding of the situation in the territories and important from his viewpoint for the purpose of getting to know those who, for all of the last 4 years, have stood on the other side of the settlements barricades.

All the actions enumerated above are desirable and positive, but all of them, as Ari'el Sharon sees it, lead to one goal--to come to an agreement with those whom Ari'el Sharon calls the "Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el" (and who are also known in some parts of the world as the Palestinians) over the establishment of autonomy in accordance with the feelings and understanding of Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who regard it (as do many of the ministers of his current government) as lip service to a genuine independent administration. Such an independent administration would, in fact, be in Israeli hands and only its fringes would be in the hands of the Arabs.

The inhabitants of the West Bank reject such an administration out of hand. Over the course of the last 14 years agricultural and uncultivated land has been taken from the Arabs of the territories, as well as administrative authority in towns and educational institutions, books have been banned from sale and even more restrictive codes have been drawn up--and now only their honor is left to them. They are not giving up their honor. Now it seems to them that Minister Sharon, under cover of creating a new atmosphere for talking, wants to take even their honor from them, the last whole asset still remaining to them.

Anyone who thinks that there are leaders hiding somewhere in the territories who are frightened to identify themselves publicly does not know what he is talking about. A genuine leader is not afraid to express himself even if his views are not accepted by everyone. It is the public that elects or recognizes its genuine leaders, and it is only in pipe dreams that the ideal Palestinian leaders, who are also acceptable to the Israeli public, can be found.

Superficial changes for the purpose of easing the difficult atmosphere that has prevailed in the territories over the last few years will have some effect, but they will not pave new ways to the hearts of the leaders of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Even if Ari'el Sharon decides to deal with the Palestinian issue in unconventional ways, to try and speak with recognized, even pro-PLO leaders--he will not be able to do anything at all with the current government under Menahem Begin's charismatic leadership. To date (and, it may be assumed, in the future, too) Menahem Begin and Ari'el Sharon have seen eye to eye on the issue of the territories. In fact, they want to annex the West Bank, and perhaps the Gaza Strip as well, to Israel, not only de facto, as has been done to date, but also de jure. As they see it, the territories are an integral part of Eretz Yisra'el. Except that Menahem Begin sees this in a mystical-biblical way and Ari'el Sharon also adds a security-settlement aspect to the biblical one.

Unlike those who regard Ari'el Sharon's latest initiative as a wily trick aimed at throwing dust in the eyes of the world before the autonomy talks, I believe him when he says that he wants to try and solve the problem in all sincerity. This is not a field like his previous fields of battle, which he studies well before the fight; this is an unknown field for the veteran general.

The leaders in the territories with whom he will speak next week will receive him well (the very fact of the new initiative has aroused interest and emotion among all groups in the territories), and it may be assumed that the talks will be conducted in a pleasant, friendly atmosphere. But he will quickly find out that there is no chance of a substantive change in their positions, whether they lean toward Jordan, the PLO or Egypt (when discussing the Gaza Strip).

After a few months he will also find out, it seems, that there is no new, more moderate leadership, one more convenient for talking with, and that it is hard to change a basic situation of conquest by cosmetic means. Conquest is conquest and the great majority of the inhabitants of the territories wants to get rid of it. Only if they understand that there is a light at the end of the tunnel will they agree to cooperate with Ari'el Sharon or any other Israeli. If this does not happen, they will not cooperate. Sharon will yet find out that it is difficult for Palestinians in the territories to see themselves as a separate entity from the Palestinians scattered over the Arab countries, and by defining them as "Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el" Sharon is dividing them from their brothers across the border. Then, as far as can be seen, Ari'el Sharon's period of disillusionment will begin and it will be interesting to see whether he will continue with the policy of stopping humiliations at roadblocks, canceling the "hazings" and collective punishments and improving the atmosphere, or whether he will order the conducting of a more iron-fisted policy than ever, including deportations across the border not only for individuals, as has been the case so far, but also for groups.

BETHLEHEM MAYOR BRIEFED ON SHARON POLICY

TA190740 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Aug 81 p 1

[Report by David Richardson]

[Excerpt] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj yesterday met with the military commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin ben-Eli'ezer, in the first meeting between a Military Government official and a local Palestinian leader since Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon announced his "liberalizing" policy for the territories.

Frayj said last night that he was "satisfied" by the meeting, during which he and Ben-Eli'ezer discussed "municipal and other matters relating to the welfare of the people on the West Bank and in Gaza."

He did not disclose details of the meeting.

Reliable sources said last night, however, that the mayor had discussed Sharon's proposals for easing the atmosphere in the West Bank and heard details of what the defence minister proposed for the area.

Since these are reportedly designed to serve Israel's conception of "full autonomy" as agreed at Camp David, the mayor was said to feel they have little chance of success.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ARMS PRODUCTION NOT POSSIBLE

TA181249 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Report by Military Correspondent Shim'on Ayalon]

[Text] It is really out of the question for Israeli manufacturers ever to reach complete self-sufficiency in anything, some equipment, tools or raw material will always have to be imported. However, the dependency on foreign sources for military units such as electronics, planes and tanks can be lessened, as the manufacture of the Kfir warplane and the Merkava tank have shown. However, both of these vehicles have American-made engines and a host of other imported parts, including artifacts made from imported raw materials, whether this is the armored steel of the Merkava or the raw ore from which the metal is smelted.

What may appear to be simple aircraft parts manufactured here and often exported in great quantities--such as the vanes for the airplane engines which Israel exports on the world market and even to the United States--are dependent on the import of the raw material to make them, upon a manufacturing process which is itself dependent on imported tooling machines.

Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], which has done a remarkable job in its brief history, is proud of its ultrasophisticated digital equipment automatically performing complicated cutting jobs. These machines brought IAI into the modern machineshop era--but they are imported, and so are many of the similar machines used to make the Merkava tank. So even if Israel tries to manufacture its engines for the new-generation Israeli warplane, the Lavi--and preliminary designs on this plane are just about over--the engines will be built under license from the Americans, since for Israel to develop its own engine would cost a great deal of money and take some 7 to 10 years. And even if the Americans do not turn off the tap of technological knowledge, they or other countries could throw monkey wrenches in the works of Israel's military manufacturing plants in numerous small ways.

But would the Americans want to do this? Possibly not. Certainly not in the present political configuration. The brief embargo on the F-16's and the F-15's was a political slap on the wrist for Israel, as much geared to take pressure off Washington as to put pressure on Jerusalem. But that is part of the ongoing political scene.

What may happen in the future, should Israel's needs and actions run directly contrary to the attitude of any U.S. administration? Well, the situation might change.

BEGIN HAVING PROBLEMS FORMING DEFENSE COMMITTEE

TA191055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Aug 81 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is having difficulties in forming the Ministerial Defense Committee due to the plethora of candidates for this body from among the Cabinet ministers. As a result of the difficulties, the prime minister is delaying the formation of the committee until after he returns from his U.S. visit next month.

Of the 17 current Cabinet members, 9 served on the Ministerial Defense Committee in the previous government. Begin, Shamir, Sharon, Aridor, Ehrlich, Nisim, Shostaq, Burg and Hammer regard themselves as candidates for membership on the new committee, and the Prime Minister tends to agree with this. Other ministers also believe that their participation on the committee is justified, or the prime minister is interested in coopting them to the committee. Ya'aqov Meridor, who is regarded as a senior minister and a close colleague of Begin's; David Levi, since he is a deputy prime minister; Mordekhay Tzipori (on the basis of his expertise in defense matters); and Yitzhaq Moda'i, whom Mr Begin promised to appoint to the Ministerial Defense Committee.

Thus, of the 17 ministers, 13 are candidates for the committee. Only Ministers Berman, Pat and Sharir are not on the list. In view of this tangle, Mr Begin has stated that he will not form the committee for the time being. Next Sunday, 24 August, the cabinet is expected to approve the formation of its other committees. At that session, David Levi will likely be elected a deputy prime minister.

HA'ARETZ: EVACUATION PLAN FOR ARGENTINIAN JEWS

TA150719 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 81 p 3

[Text] The August issue of the monthly MONITIN, which will reach the newsstands on Sunday, 16 August, reports on a plan to save the Jews of Argentina in the event that antisemitism there threatens their well being.

The report by REUTER correspondent (Alan Ellsner) says that HIAS [Jewish organization to help immigrants] has worked out an emergency plan for the evacuation to Brazil by airlift of the 350,000 Jews living in Argentina.

HIAS sources said that Brazilian President General Figueiredo has promised the Jewish organization's president, Ed Shapiro, that the evacuated Jews would be allowed to receive asylum in Brazil. The HIAS leaders fear that Argentina's economic collapse might breed more extreme antisemitic tendencies in that country, subsequently resulting in danger to the lives of Jews there.

PEACE TREATY PRODUCES MORE INVESTMENTS

TA171306 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Aug 81 p 5

[Report by Abraham Dishon]

[Text] The Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, along with the instability in Iraq and Iran, led to a considerable increase in foreign investments in Israel in 1980, according to an internal document recently drawn up by the Finance Ministry's investments authority. According to the authority's data, foreign investors last year invested $201 million in Israel--$92 million through the stock exchange, and the rest directly in various industrial plants.

The document shows that there was a 25 percent real-term growth in investments as compared with the preceding year. There was a 31 percent rise in the approval of new investments (whose application had not yet begun) and a 78 percent increase in investments by foreign investors in partnership with local firms.

Whereas there was a real-term drop of 11 percent during the 1978-80 period in investments in industry by local entrepreneurs, this same period experienced a 58 percent growth in investments made by foreigners.

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT DROP--The country's rate of unemployment decreased from April through June to 4.3 percent, compared to 5 percent during the first quarter of the year, according to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. A year ago the second quarter unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. With seasonal adjustment, the actual rate shows a decline in unemployment during the first quarter of 5.4 percent and a second quarter decline of 4.9 percent, compared to 4.3 percent in the second quarter last year. This second quarter decline is attributed to the artificial spurt of economic activity before the Knesset elections and does not represent a true change in overall economic trends. The unemployment rate among men reached 3.9 percent during the second quarter, compared to 4.8 percent in the first. Among women workers the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in the second quarter, compared to 5.7 during the first 3 months of the year. [Text] [Jerusalem POST in English 18 Aug 81 p 1 TA]

GAZA CHOLERA CASES--The number of cholera patients discovered in the Gaza Strip today rose to 12. Another 350 patients in the Gaza Strip have been put in quarantine because of the fear that they are also infected with the illness. The Gaza health department has begun to take vigorous steps to prevent the epidemic from spreading, fearing that the disease may penetrate into other regions of Israel. [Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Aug 81 TA]

LIBYA

TRIPOLI: U.S. AIRCRAFT ATTACK LIBYAN PLANES

LD191250 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] A military spokesman has stated that within the framework of the escalation of American aggression against the Libyan people and their revolution, the American Air Force [as heard] has since yesterday morning and until this very moment been carrying out intensive constant provocative violations of our territorial air space and the waters in the Gulf of Sidra.

At 0712 today, 19 August 1981, while two of our aircraft were on routine reconnaissance flights in our skies and over our territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra, eight USAF aircraft intercepted them and fired at them.

FOREIGN LIASON BUREAU STATEMENT ON U.S. MANEUVERS

LD182353 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Statement issued 18 August by the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau]

[Text] As part of the campaign of terror and U.S. provocations, the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean yesterday, 17 August 1981, began military maneuvers off the shores of Sidra which will continue until 23 August. According to the confirmed information it appears that a part of the area of maneuvers falls inside the territorial waters of the socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in the Gulf of Sidra, by about 38 km. Also, part of the area of maneuvers which falls inside the Gulf of Sidra also falls within the area of [words indistinct] of the Libyan Arab Air Forces. The last part of the maneuvers, which will take place in international waters, falls within a dangerous area, HLB-6 [as heard] of the Libyan Arab Air Force.

Holding these U.S. maneuvers in the mentioned area contradicts the Libyan declaration of 9 October 1973, which said that the Gulf of Sidra falls in Libyan territory and that its eastern, southern and western land borders and its northern limit, latitude 32 degrees 20 minutes north, is considered an intergral part of the Libyan region and comes under its full sovereignty, being domestic waters, after which begins its regional sea, which comes under complete national sovereignty and jurisdiction. This declaration was, at the time, notified to all states and international organizations.

This U.S. action is considered a violation of national sovereignty and uncalled for interference and provocation against the Jamahiriyah. It exposes international peace and security to danger and it contradicts the principles and aims of the United Nations. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah reserves the right of taking all measures which it sees necessary to safeguard its legitimate rights in its airspace and territorial waters.

COMMENTARIES ATTACK U.S. 6TH FLEET MANEUVERS

JANA Commentary

LD181946 Tripoli JANA in English 1848 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Aug (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--NEWSWEEK magazine of yesterday pointed out that in response to instructions from President Reagan the defence secretary, Caspar Weinberger, had ordered the U.S. Sixth Fleet to carry out manoeuvres during this week inside the Libyan Arab coastal waters, in Sidra Gulf, to coincide with large scale land maneuvers organized by the Egyptian regime along the Libyan borders.

The magazine, which has close links with the State Department and the White House, said marine units and planes would take part in the manoeuvres. The American Navy has warned ships and planes passing through the region that the firing range would include an area of 3,200 square miles.

After months of debating how to assassinate Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the magazine said, the American administration would offer its first direct challenge to the Libyan revolution through these manoeuvres.

JANA's political editor has made the following comment on the American Government's decision to conduct these terrorist provocative manoeuvres inside Libyan territorial waters:

"The American manoeuvres to be conducted by the American Sixth Fleet during this week in the Gulf of Sidra, which is an indivisible part of our sovereign territorial waters, expose the nature and reality of American aggressive intentions and affirms that the bloodthirsty terrorists are, through their subversive activities and provocative terrorist acts, consolidating their terrorist programmes to commit aggression on the Libyan people and attempting to strike at its gains and undermine the civilizational transformations realized on Libyan soil using agent instruments and figures with whom it indulges in executing the criminal terrorist schemes."

He added: "The joint challenge thrown by the American administration and its agent, As-Sadat, in the region, exemplified by the manoeuvres to be conducted by the American fleet and the Egyptian regime's land forces, is another link in the chain of imperialism, the search for war and aggression against the peoples and their freedom". He affirmed "the Libyan Arab people, faced with this provocative armed stance against its revolution and leader, will fight by all means for its territorial waters and any inch of its land or air space whoever is the aggressor party, whether it is America or any other force."

Radio Commentary

LD182202 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Commentary by Tripoli radio's political editor]

[Text] The American maneuvers which are to take place opposite the Gulf of Sidra, close to our territorial waters, are not the first of their kind in the series of U.S. provocations against the Jamahiriyah. It is the same line which the U.S. consistently takes in its dealings with other nations.

In view of this American action, characterized by increasing hostility, an action whose links have been exposed and whose scope became particularly clear since the terrorist plot against the leader of the revolution--in view of this action it becomes clear that the Libyan people's achievementments and their revolution, which produced these achievements and which is the source of life on Earth, have greatly troubled imperialist American circles. It is certain that imperialist circles resort to such military moves from time to time in order to terrorize people and threaten their freedom, future and very existence. They want to threaten the path chosen by people, the way they wish to live and the way they want to conduct their national and international affairs.

When the CIA plot failed to eliminate the revolutionary leadership of the Libyan revolution, when it became clear to the U.S. that such elimination could not be accomplished without a sea of blood, involving hundreds of thousands of Libyan Arabs who would have fought to defend their leader and their achievements--when all that became clear, the maneuvers opposite the Gulf of Sidra have come along as yet another link in the chain of imperialist plots, warmongering, aggression against nations and threats to their freedom.

If we follow the series of American maneuvers which threatened the Jamahiriya's people, we find, as we have already said, that this round of maneuvers is not the first of its kind. American and Egyptian maneuvers have taken place near the Jamahiriya's eastern frontier. Seventy (?M-8) aircraft, (?Cobra-1 helicopters) and Mirages participated in those maneuvers, which took place toward the end of last year. Over a period of 4 days American forces were transported from American bases to the American military base west of Cairo in [aircraft indistinct]. The maneuvers cost more than $25 million. On 10 March 1981, at strategic spots on the Mediterranean [words indistinct], the American 6th Fleet carried out naval maneuvers in the central region opposite the Jamahiriyah's coast. A few days after that, on 28 May and for the next 5 days, the 6th Fleet carried out naval maneuvers opposite the Jamahiriyah's shore. Naval vessels, aircraft carriers and squadrons of fighter aircraft took part in these. In the same month the American Congress approved Reagan's military budget, which amounts to $222 billion and reflects the new administration's aggressive spirit.

As for the American military presence in the Mediterranean, the eastern Mediterranean is crowded with American warships: There are over 30 American warships there. The American presence in the Mediterranean is also represented by reactivating 26 American military bases in Turkey. These had been closed in 1975 but were reopened in order to be a principal element in American Middle East policy. Add to that the documents published by the Cypriot press to the effect that American spy planes fly regularly from NATO bases in Greece, from Akrotiri in Cyprus and from other American bases.

In 1981 the American military budget amounted to $165 billion, an increase of $20 billion over the previous year. In 1981 it reached an unprecedented level, the American Defense Department having asked Congress for an increase of $32 billion. The military budget for 1981 thus reached its highest figure, $222 billion.

Finally, American maneuvers carried out near our shores from time to time show that the achievements of the Arabs of the Jamahiriyah have begun to cause genuine concern to American imperialist circles. Those who are today conducting the maneuvers and their puppet accomplices in the region know well that the Libyan Arabs will fight in every possible way to defend their territorial waters, every inch of their land and every inch of their airspace, regardless of who the aggressor may be, America or any other power.

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES 18 AUG

LD182146 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Aug (JANA)--Chief of the First African Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Aleksey Shvedov, arrived in Tripoli this evening, together with his assistant, leading a delegation on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

GABON

BONGO 21ST ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS TO NATION

AB180920 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Aug 81

[President Omar Bongo's speech to the nation delivered in Libreville on 16 August on the occasion of the nation's 21st independence anniversary--recorded]

[Text] Dear Gabonese and dear fellow countrymen: We are called upon to celebrate once more our National Day in commemoration of 17 August, 1960, which was the day on which the Gabonese people attained total liberty and became an independent and sovereign nation. For the nation independence is the very expression of liberty. The republican form and the democratic system that we chose were also based on the principle of liberty as well as the rights of the citizen, including human rights.

On this anniversary day of Gabonese emancipation I have decided to place my words under the sign of liberty [words indistinct]. That is why having been called three times to head the country, I have been called upon three times to swear the solemn of oath of respecting and defending the Constitution, this Constitution which says in its first part that liberty is the guaranteed right of the Gabonese.

As head of a republican and democratic state, I have continually striven to apply as widely and deeply as possible the main principles to which the Gabonese nation is attached, the first of which is, without doubt, liberty.

Will it be possible for us to ensure that the new stage--which we have begun at the dawn of the third decade and which we have named the renaissance--receive its inspiration from political liberalism increased by more democratization? It is once again this desire for more democratization which leads me today to take into account the maturity of the Gabonese people and to decide that, henceforth, the prime minister will become both prime minister and head of the government while remaining accountable to me. I repeat that the prime minister will become prime minister and head of the government while remaining accountable to me, to the Central Committee and the National Assembly.

It is also with this same desire to allow the representatives of the Gabonese people to participate more in the drawing up of the national policy that I judged it necessary to increase the contributions of the Economic and Social Council, henceforth, this council must be consulted on all state draft budgets. In addition, the membership of this council will be extended to the chairman of the provincial assemblies and members of the Central Committee designated by the secretary general of the party upon the proposal of the Political Bureau.

In order to apply these decisions, whose importance I need not stress, a bill for the modification of the Constitution will be submitted within the next few days to the Political Bureau, the Council of Ministers and then to all the members of the Central Committee of the Gabonese Democratic Party [PDG] and the National Assembly.

Once the modification of the Constitution has been carried out, a prime minister and head of government will obviously be nominated followed by the forming of the new government. But I insist that the first task of this government will be to continue the execution of our established policy and mainly the control of the national heritage. Therefore, the government must negotiate with the big firms set up in Gabon, that is the Ogoue Mining Company, Franceville Uranium Mining Company, Gabonese Forestry Company, ELF-Gabon, SEG [expansion unknown] and many other firms for increased state participation in the capital of these firms.

In any case, the prime minister and head of government will present, at the appropriate time, the economic and social program of his government. By maintaining infallible unity and indispensable political stability to accomplish our grand aim, that of development, the Gabonese people have shown their political maturity and their civic awareness. They have assumed with success and a sense of the responsibility of the citizen the consequences of our policy. To promote this evolution, and thus play the dominant institutional role given to it by the PDG, they have moved in the direction of the decisions taken at their extraordinary congress of 1979. They have enlarged the party's popular base to make a real rallying point for the masses and the cement of national unity.

We consider that this national unity has had a catalytic effect on all the good will and all the experiences of the people because without national unity, without popular cohesion Gabon will only expose itself to the instability which is present elsewhere. But since I know the people and have always trusted them, I believe that once more the people will have faith in me.

It is this faith which led them to renew the leaders of the party and to (?strengthen) the Central Committee whose role has been clarified. The strengthening of the state machinery promises to be a qualitative one since the young elite, which is determined to devote itself to the national cause, has been integrated into it in order to give the party additional dynamism and efficiency.

They have remodeled and consolidated the party's organs such as the party branches, sections, committees and specialized organizations to enable them to adopt the (?right) decisions. The party's action thus made possible success of the 1980 elections to the National Assembly and the local assemblies. The voting method used was in accordance with the exigencies of universal suffrage and enabled the electorate to freely choose their representatives [words indistinct]. I have noted that the new assemblies are composed of men and reason and action who are sincerely patriotic and anxious to serve the general interest and to work for Gabon. To conclude this chapter on internal policy, I would like to add that the recent establishment of provincial, departmental and municipal assemblies falls with the context of our desire to democratize the political life as was announced during the PDG's extraordinary congress held in December, 1979. This democratization took the form of a decentralization of responsibilities in the field of economic and social development. The government must be able to obtain massive cooperation from the local communities as well as an awareness of the new realities; they must work for the needs of their localities while ensuring the general wealth of the country and avoiding disruption of the unity of action. To fulfill this role, the local communities must have sufficient means which will be utilized under the control of the central administration.

However, I am anxious to emphasize that dialogue, loyalty, mutual respect and total devotion to the public interest must be the basic principles of these local institutions. This is the only way they can best fulfill the aspirations and real needs of the people. In fact, general support for the common cause--which is nation building--demands dialogue within all the organizations of the party and the state. This is because there cannot be effective policy in the absence of adequate information [words indistinct]. Democratic centralism, which must always characterize our political life, demands an atmosphere of mutual confidence between the government and the governed and between the rulers and the people. This golden rule is also the one governing our conduct and actions wit- regard to the outside world.

As a matter of fact, our doctrine of democratic and harmonious progressionism aims at ensuring a balanced economic and social development for the well-being of all. This development cannot be conceived without an open door policy which includes sincere cooperation with the other African countries and the rest of the world.

In this regard, for us freedom constitutes a sacred principle. We are anxious to jealously safeguard our sovereignty and identity. We reject imperialism and foreign interference and nonalignment is our path. We accept dialogue, freely accepted rapprochement, exchange of diplomatic representatives and cooperation in mutual respect.

It was with this conception of international political life that I recently had the pleasure to make contact with the new U.S. and French authorities. Our door is wide open to all sound cooperation which respects international morality and we are convinced that there is no conflict which cannot be settled through negotiations. In the community of nations, Gabon's voice is listened to with respect and our country is treated with consideration and confidence. [passage indistinct]

On the occasion of every national day celebration, I make a point of reporting on the country's economic and social development. The concept of freedom which I have just stressed [words indistinct] constitutes one of the keys of our doctrine of democratic and harmonious progressionism which is both a philosophy of development and [words indistinct]. The liberalism we are practicing is a system which aims at insuring the reciprocal benefit of Gabon and its foreign partners. Free enterprise and the (?accumulation) of profits are ensured, but these should not in any way affect the exercise by the public authorities of Gabon's sovereign rights or the preeminence of the general interest over individual interests. We mean to have full control over our national heritage and to freely dispose of our national resources. We want to have control over our national economy and assume responsibility for our development by preparing plans capable of enhancing our economic and social development and by participating in the capital enterprises [passage indistinct].

The public debt has been reduced by more than half and the balance of payments again shows a surplus thanks to increased commercial activities. This resumption of economic growth already enabled the gross national product to increase by 27 percent in 1980 compared to 1979 and earned us the record sum of 795 billion francs. One-third of the 1981 budget revenues was earmarked for capital investment; this enables us to actively continue with the execution of the 1980-82 interim plan. I think we may even say the 1980-83 interim plan. The main objective of this plan is to give priority to productive investments such as agriculture and rural development, energy production as well as transportation and particularly the completion of the trans-Gabon railroad. [passage indistinct]

We are determined to apply a rigorous policy of financial austerity and to severely punish [words indistinct]. However, the indispensable direction we intend to give to our development planning depends on a radical change in our behavior. It implies that all of us should be deeply concerned with the progress of our country and the construction of a durably prosperous economy. The plan must be the expression of a national consensus. This means, first of all, that it must be the fruit of a large exchange of views between the various social partners in both the private and public sectors.

This exchange of views is essential and will demand that the deliberations of the national planning commissions be conducted with particular care. This implies that the views of the provincial, departmental and municipal assemblies should be taken into account. These bodies must be able to contribute to the building of their localities. It is necessary that the people--through their qualified representatives--should be able to express themselves during the preparation of the plans by informing the planners about their preoccupations and aspirations. [passage indistinct]

I am anxious that the leading organs of the party and government should clearly give their views on the orientations of the plan and the projects envisaged so that the adoption of the new plan may be preceded by a veritable debate in our National Assembly. Dear fellow countrymen, all that I have just said and whatever we may do in this country cannot achieve anything positive unless you understand me. A country must rely on its youth because the future depends on the youth. When we talk of the plan, we are talking about the future. [passage indistinct] I call on the next government to ensure that henceforth the Gabonese youth--I do not mean depraved youths, who do not exist in Gabon--are associated with every political, economic and social action in our country. This is why I ask the prime minister to be appointed tomorrow to insure the participation of many youths in the government. We should never forget that any action in which the youth do not participate is doomed to failure. I am in a very good position to say this because I was elected president of the republic at the age of 32 [words indistinct]. The future depends on the youth and I believe, through my own experience, that the youth should be associated in our national action.

I have placed this independence message under the sign of freedom, but the satisfaction of this natural aspiration by states as well as by men is being hindered by fundamental inequalities and the obligations which community life imposes on man. The interdependence of nations is a patent reality and their solidarity in the form of economic cooperation is a necessary condition for the reign of justice and peace.

As a developing country or a country under construuction, we ought to show our satisfaction with the assistance granted us by the international organizations like the United Nations Organization and the EEC even if sometimes some organizations like the World Bank do not understand us. But we must have confidence in ourselves. We hope that the North-South dialogue, which unfortunately has not yet started, will have another chance to do so during the Cancun summit in Mexico next October, since it was decided on the occasion of the preliminary meeting that this summit should achieve the identity of views of the heads of state and government and thus give a political impetus to the efforts of international economic cooperation.

My dear fellow countrymen, to conclude, I wish to encourage you to maintain freedom and (? unity) and to avoid individualism with its evil consequences which are confusion and anarchy. Well-being depends on community life and unity in the observance of the laws and regulations which are made for everyone even if they impose some limits on freedom. Freedom can be meaningful only in an atmosphere of solidarity and fraternity. Therefore, I again appeal to your conscience so that union, harmony and national cohesion may reign and guarantee for our people the progress and happiness to which they aspire.

Dear fellow countrymen, I can say that we are mature because independence is a wager with nature. But if we want to win this wager against all those who have been criticizing us, who bear us a grudge and who jealous of us and against us, we must--within the framework of this freedom--unite within our great movement, the PDG. It is necessary that both at home and abroad, the Gabonese should speak with only one voice so that people may finally know that whatever anyone may do or say, Gabon is a country of peace and freedom. Long live the Gabonese fatherland! Long live the republic!

NIGERIA

AIR FORCE CONFIRMS LOST PLANE; YAOUNDE ROLE DENIED

SUNDAY STANDARD Report

AB190900 Paris AFP in French 0743 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Lagos, 18 Aug (AFP)--According to the weekly SUNDAY STANDARD of Jos (central Nigeria) and quoting informed sources, a MIG of the Nigerian Air Force disappeared on Cameroonian territory last June.

The plane left the Makurdi base for a reconnaissance mission and it never reached the capital of Cross River State (bordering Cameroon), the same source states. The MIG might have either been brought down by Cameroonian forces or forced to land in Cameroon where it might have been sieized, the SUNDAY STANDARD reports. The plane was sent on the mission at the time when great tension existed between the two countries after the border incident which resulted in the deaths of five Nigerian soldiers last May, the newspaper adds.

Air Force Statement

AB190745 Lagos NAN in English 0730 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Lagos, 18 Aug (NAN)--The Nigerian Air Force has denied the report that one of its planes was being held by the Cameroonian authorities. In a statement issued in Lagos today, the Nigerian Air Force confirmed that it was true that one of its planes was missing while on a training exercise, but that "at no time did the Nigerian Air Force [words indistinct].

The Nigerian Air Force said that the impression created by a story in the SUNDAY STANDARD newspaper of August 16, that the plane had been brought down by the Cameroonian authorities, "was false, distorted, misleading and capable of creating bad feelings between Nigeria and Cameroon."

The Nigerian Air Force added that the story was highly embarrassing, especially when "the strained relationship between Nigeria and Cameroon has since been normalised."

It therefore requested that in future, such a sensitive story "capable of inciting one country against another" should be cross-checked with the Nigerian Air Force before giving it publicity.

PAPERS VIEW CAMEROON DISPUTE, STEEL MINISTERS TRIP

AB181831 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The Nigerian-Cameroon border situation re-echoes again. The reports on the back page of the NIGERIAN HERALD learn that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is not satisfied with the compensation offered by Cameroon. The paper continues that the committee described the killing of the Nigerian soldiers as an act of aggression and provocation and therefore thinks the reparation Cameroon offers to pay is inadequate. It is the contention of the body, the HERALD adds, that the issue of a border dispute between the two countries is still pending.

A discussion in Moscow between Nigeria's minister of steel development and the Soviet president reveals that Nigeria steel project at Ajaukuta is to receive Russia's best (?rated) technology according to the NEW NIGERIAN. All equipment and machines to be installed at the complex will be second to none in quality.

ANGOLA

FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION MEETS U.S. CONGRESSMEN

AB181319 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1050 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] Luanda, 17 Aug (ANGOP)--An Angolan Foreign Ministry delegation and a delegation of American congressmen began talks today (Monday) at the conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luanda.

The Angolan delegation is headed by Venancio de Moura, vice minister of foreign affairs, and is composed of Olga Lima, director of political affairs in the Foreign Ministry; Brito Sozinho, head of the Africa and Middle East Department; Bernardino Sequeira, head of the Western Countries Department; and Coelho da Cruz, chairman of the League of Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples.

The American delegation was led by Howard E. Wolpe and included other members of the U.S. Congress.

Venancio de Moura took the opportunity to welcome the visiting delegation while stressing that the meeting was being held within the framework of the principles that have always led the Angolan party and government to distinguish between people and their country's regime, emphasizing that we do not mistake the American people for the American Government.

The vice minister of foreign affairs underscored the Angolan people's solidarity with all the peoples of the world, particularly with those who are still waging an armed struggle and with those who are fighting against reactionary regimes on the African Continent.

In turn, the leader of the delegation of American congressmen said that his delegation's visit was part of a factfinding tour to several African countries, in particular, southern Africa.

Howard Wolpe said that the delegation had visited Zimbabwe, Kenya, Somalia and South Africa while pointing out that during its 4-day visit to South Africa, it had faced the latter's intransigence on the problem of apartheid and a solution to the Namibian issue.

Lastly, he stressed the efforts being made by the Angolan people to find a solution the Namibian problem based on UN Resolution 435 on Namibia.

According to the program, the American congressmen who arrived in Luanda today will hold talks with the deputies of the People's Assembly and will visit Huila Province.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANGOLAN CLAIM OF TROOPS IN S. ANGOLA REJECTED

LD141540 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] The South African Defense Force has rejected as (?hackneyed) propaganda allegations by the Angolan news agency ANGOP that South African forces, backed by jet fighters and tanks, are still occupying parts of southern Angola and are pressing north. The spokesman in Pretoria said it was another transparent attempt by the Angolan Government to blame South Africa and the South African Defense Force for its lamentable inability to enforce law and order in Angola. The Angolan news agency quoted a Defense Ministry statement which said that reinforcements had been brought in over the border with South-West Africa/ Namibia, and that South African troops were advancing towards Cuvelai, about 200 km from the border.

The South African Defense Force spokesman said the allegations appear to be an aknowledgement by the Angolan Government that it was unable to control the activities of the UNITA resistance movement.